

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.

OFFICE NEWS

Pastor Steve holds the following office hours:

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

Ella is in the office:

Monday - Friday
9:30am - 12:30pm

Pastor Steve can be reached at revsev62@sbcglobal.net and 203-232-2752

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT ...



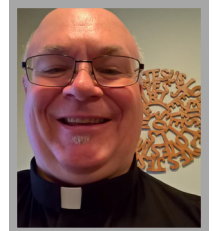
**FROM THE
REV. JOHN WESLEY**

"Thanksgiving is inseparable from true prayer; it is almost essentially connected

with it. One who always prays is ever giving praise, whether in ease or pain, both for prosperity and for the greatest adversity. He blesses God for all things, looks on them as coming from Him, and receives them for His sake- not choosing nor refusing, liking or disliking, anything, but only as it is agreeable or disagreeable to His perfect will."

PASTOR'S PAGE

J. Vernon McGee says this, "Do you realize that the most important commandment for a Christian is not to witness, not to serve, but to love other Christians?" This of course comes



from Jesus' conversation with the disciples the night before his crucifixion where he says, "Love one another as I have loved you. By this everyone will know you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

This is one of my favorite passages from John. Loving each other does not mean we all have to think alike, pray alike, believe alike, and/or even breathe alike – but it does mean we need to love alike – that is, one another as Jesus loved us – a self-sacrificing, truly human love that transcends theology and each of our selves. Difficult? Oh yes, it is not easy. Possible? The more and more we practice it, it can be. It means agreeing to disagree, it means respecting, it means allowing more room for God to work and for us to get out of the way and allow God to put right what has been done wrong. It requires a great deal of faith. Faith especially in the fact that God is bigger than any one of our ideas of who God is or isn't, or what God wants or doesn't want. God knows this. That's why the vastness of God is not made up of judgment or punishment, but with grace and above all else, love.

All of our arguments whether they are petty or emotionally charged, all our conflict within our church and without, and all hard feelings are what Wally Philips, old-timey radio personality, would call "the chop suey of life. The full quote from Wally is this, "Love is the soy sauce on the chop suey of life." Love it is that will see our church and us through. So pour it on lavishly; don't hold back. Pour on the love to make life not just worth living, but tasty and delicious, something that brings out all the flavors in each other to their peak.

SAINTS OF THE MONTH

(Submitted by Pastor Steve)

For the month of May our Saints of the Month are Bob and Rob Sibley. Bob and Rob put in quite a bit of time getting our grounds ready for Easter Sunday morning. They went above and beyond, chopping out dead rhododendron branches, mulching beds, cleaning up the outdoor worship area. Great job, guys! Thank you so much! For this and many other reasons, Bob and Rob Sibley are our Saints of the Month for the month of May.

A NOTE FROM YOUR MINISTER OF MUSIC

Christ Is Risen!!

A wonderful text by Brian Wren set to a Polish carol in our hymnal



Christ is risen! Shout Hosanna! Celebrate this day of days. Christ is risen! Hush in wonder; all creation is amazed. In the desert all surrounding, see a spreading tree has grown. Healing leaves of grace abounding bring a taste of love unknown.

Christ is risen! Raise your spirits from the caverns of despair. Walk with gladness in the morning. See what love can do and dare. Drink the wine of resurrection, not a servant, but a friend; Jesus is our strong companion. Joy and peace shall never end.

Christ is risen! Earth and heaven never more shall be the same. Break the bread of new creation where the world is still in pain. Tell its grim, demonic chorus: "Christ is risen! Get you gone!" God the First and Last is with us Sing Hosanna every-one!

PASTOR'S PAGE CONTINUED ...

Do so in your business, family and church life and you will see amazing results and even miracles occur.

I believe and know it to be true. I believe that with the Spirit's urging and direction, and with a wider, more loving perspective, the church on earth, in whatever form, shape or theology it may take on, will continue and the good news of God's love in Jesus Christ will continue to be spread.

God's Love & Grace Be Yours,
Pastor Steve

DISTRICT NEWS



CT District Conference May 3rd, 8:30 – 3:30
Good afternoon CT District,

We're excited to share that registration is now open for The Connecticut District Conference. We can't wait to see you there! Register Today → [REGISTER](#) or go to 2025 The Connecticut District Conference.

Come say Hallelujah with DS Rev. Dr. Alpher Sylvester for his final Connecticut District Conference as Superintendent. This year, we continue with our theme: "Perfecting Your Tools for Evangelism."

- How do you grow your church but through Evangelism.
- Identify a need and attend to it!
- Make a friend!
- Share your story!
- How do you identify the needs in your community?
- The art of observation.
- How do you make a friend? Come find out.
- How do you share your faith?

(EVANGELISM) STORYTELLING!

We are excited to welcome Presenter, Facilitator, and Storyteller, Sheila Arnold, who will inspire and equip us for the mission ahead.

NEW MEMBER WELCOME

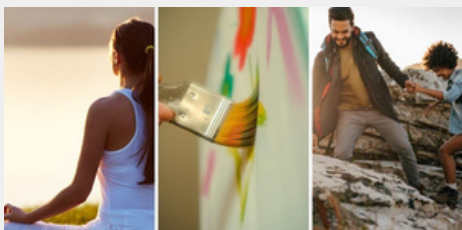
We welcomed into our membership six new members on Easter Sunday morning! They were: John and June Sibley-Prusak, Karen Petrillo, and Andre, Lenise and Stefan Veenuis. Please get to know and pray for them. Thank you!

PASSINGS

George F. Hanlon; a long-time member, George peacefully passed on to his reward at 90 years of age on March 31.

HOW WE GROW

From the [umc.org](https://www.umc.org)



Surprising spiritual practices that deepen faith.

Learn how art, hiking, meditation and music can become meaningful spiritual practices that grow our faith and connect us more fully with God in this article by Laura Buchanan

<https://www.umc.org/en/content/surprising-spiritual-practices-that-deepen-faith>

DEADLINE FOR JUNE EVANGEL SUBMISSIONS



DISTRICT NEWS CONTINUED ...

Bishop Bickerton In CT 2025 Bishop's Time with The Connecticut District

Come and be a part of a special time of information sharing, fellowship, inspiration, and connection as we gather for Bishop's Time with the Connecticut District. This is the opportunity to understand the vision for our journey ahead. Here is the link to [REGISTER](#):

Date: Monday, May 5th, 2025

Location: Meriden First UMC 159 East Main Street, Meriden, CT 06450

- Update on Bishop's new role as the New Hope Episcopal leader.
- What does it mean for our future?
- Update on the United Methodist Church post GC 2024?
- Update on the state of our Annual Conference?
- What is happening spiritually/programmatically? Our DCM
- What is happening financially? Our CFO
- What is happening with Co-Operative Parishes? UMCCS
- Opportunity for Dialog (Question & Answer Session)

Agenda:

6:00 PM - 7:00 PM Dinner with musical accompaniment- New Room Ensemble

7:00 PM - 7:30 PM A time of worship & affirmation and Mid-State/New Room Choir

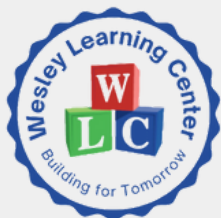
7:30 PM - 8:30 PM Bishop Thomas J. Bickerton

8:30 PM - 9:00 PM Short Closing Worship with Communion

9:00 PM Departure

NUMC IN THE COMMUNITY

Please remember that on the **first Sunday of the month, Communion Sunday**, please bring new or gently used infant and toddler clothing that we will donate to Paddy's Closet that operates out of the Danbury UMC and ARC (Association of Religious Communities). **They could really use toddler 3 & 4's at this time.**



wesleylearningcenter.org

CONGRATULATIONS STUDENTS ON ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL YEAR



Last day of school is May 29th

Graduation party for the 4yr olds
on May 30th at 9am in the
Sanctuary

SUMMER CAMP



Registration has begun for
children ages 2 - 5

A fun and and exciting theme offered
each week with qualified teachers.

Lots of outdoor exploration!

4 weeks in June beginning the week
of June 2nd and ending the week of
June 23rd.

Camp Hours: 9:00am - 12:00pm
Monday - Friday

Extended hours available.

Please call or email for additional
information.

Wesley Learning Center
Sandy Hook, CT 203-426-6149
director@wesleylearningcenter.org

MINISTRY MATTERS

Each month, you will learn about one or more of the ministries within the church and learn about the experiences of those who have participated.

Lynette Daria shares about her participation at The **Lenten Soup & Scriptures Series.**

"The Lenten gathering of Soup and Scriptures was an up lifting event! It fulfilled the 3 F's : Fellowship, Food, and Fun. I felt our fellowship in the shared participation of breaking bread together, and our shared relationship with God through the scriptures and the skits. It was a good feeling 😊

Speaking of the skits, they were fun in which to participate as well as watch. These skits added another dimension to understanding the scriptures in a visual way.

Of course, if you are at a Methodist gathering, there's got to be food, and there was an abundance of soup and bread, mostly home made and delicious. What a treat for me to sample all. The meal wasn't fancy but totally satisfying by imagining the simplicity Of Jesus' way of life.

As for fun, it's always fun to be a part of our church family, conversing, eating, singing songs, and sharing love for each other. I'm looking forward to hopefully making this a tradition for future Lent observations."

Bridge The Gap

Bridge the Gap is a group of members who have gotten together to address the concerns of the future sustainability of the Church. We care deeply about the future of NUMC and are diligently working on new ideas to open NUMC up to the community and be relevant in this day and age, and to continue to create new disciples for Jesus Christ. continued. We also are aware how the reorganization of Wesley Learning Center has affected not only their bottom line, but as a ministry of NUMC, our budget as well. They need our help to spread the word that we have openings there and welcome all who are interested. We continue to meet weekly and share new events, and ideas to attract new families . We welcome anyone to send us ideas, thoughts, and prayers! We can use the help if any one would like to join our Tuesday evening Zoom meetings! Please get in touch with **Justin Birtwell** to be added to the invitation to the meeting.

BIRTHDAYS & CELEBRATIONS!

Happy Birthday to...

- SAM PELLICONE 05/02
- OLIVIA STEARE 05/04
- DYLAN HANSON 05/05
- JODI SHERMAN 05/05
- BEAU CLANCY 05/06
- RICHARD GAINES 05/06
- JUDY SINGER 05/07
- KARYN HOLDEN 05/08
- DOUG STEARE 05/09
- VIRGINIA LYNCH 05/09
- COKE CRAMER 05/10
- KAYLA LICURSI 05/12
- EMERSON HELMS 05/13
- CAROLYN WOLF 05/17
- ANDREA HOYT 05/19
- MADELINE MARLIN 05/19
- ALBERT (BEN) MILES III 05/20
- RICH BLEWETT 05/21
- PAMELA MASELLA 05/23
- BEV DAHLSTROM 05/27
- JAKOB WENIS 05/28
- BUNNY EKDHAL 05/28
- KENNY BALLARD 05/30
- GRACE BALLARD 05/31
- TOM DEPALO 05/31
- MARY ELLEN SCHNEIDER 05/31
- JEFF STAKEL 05/31

Happy Anniversary to...

- STEVE AGNEW & JUDY HAMMEL
05/18/1996 29 YRS
- TRAVIS & AMANDA CLOUD
05/27/2000 25 YRS
- ED & BEV DAHLSTROM
05/23/1970 55 YRS
- TOM & JAN DEPALO
05/18/1991 34 YRS
- BOB & CINDY RICE
05/06/1983 42 YRS

OUR YOUTH



Our Methodist Youth Fellowship (**MYF**) is in the "groundbreaking" stages, as we have our first official meeting **Sunday, May 4 from 5 - 7pm** **Rauner Hall**

Our goals are to build the "youth base" of our congregation by getting together once a month to get to know each other and to engage in meaningful activities.

There will be dinner at each meeting as well as devotions, planning, and no end of fun and games. In addition, we expect to work on service projects, have occasional guest speakers, possible field trips and become supportive members of our church. We look forward to having YOU help us get started. For questions and any inquiries, **please contact Sandy Brown.**



Congratulations, Confirmands, Class of 2025!!

The Confirmation Class of 2025 have completed their class and church work and on **June 8th**, Pentecost Sunday, during worship they will publicly declare their faith in Jesus Christ as their Savior and will be conferred the honor and privilege of becoming members of the Newtown United Methodist Church. Join us in celebrating and rejoicing with our confirmands as hands and blessings are laid upon them and they confess Jesus and are officially received into full membership that Sunday morning.

The Class of 2025 are:

Owen Glenn, Beau Clancy, and Jack Cloud

EVENTS THIS MONTH



PRESENTS

HOLY YOGA®



NUMC HALL - SATURDAY, MAY 17TH, 11:30 - 12:30

FOR IN HIM WE LIVE AND MOVE AND HAVE OUR BEING (ACTS 17:28)

A typical Holy Yoga® class includes prayer, Scripture, Christ-honoring music, breathwork, meditation and movement to help you embody your faith and connect more intentionally with Christ.

Props such as blankets, blocks or yoga straps may be used to aid students of all abilities. *Students unable to get down and up off the floor easily may practice in a chair.

Wear comfortable clothes and bring a yoga mat if you have one.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT KARAN @ 203-300-7791



Mission & Outreach



Our current ministry involves the American Bible Society. They provide Bibles to our servicemen, delivering God's word to American heroes since 1817!

If you would like to take part in this ministry, a donation of \$5 will provide one Bible.

Please make a check out to NUMC and write Mission Bible in the memo. You can donate one Bible or many Bibles.

The deadline for donations is May 18
Thank you!



THE GREAT POOTATUCK DUCK RACE!

May 31st

The UMC Men's Club will be getting members and volunteers together once again to grill hamburgers and hotdogs that will be sold on the front lawn of the church! Anybody interested call or text Bob Sibley at 475-323-7410. We need as many hands that can help cooking, grilling, clean up, and taking money. Additionally, we will have other activities on the ground that day to invite people to stop in, view the church, and say hello. Pastor Steve will do a prayer tent for anyone who would like to receive or say a prayer. More info and sign up sheet COMING SOON ~ Mark your calendar!

