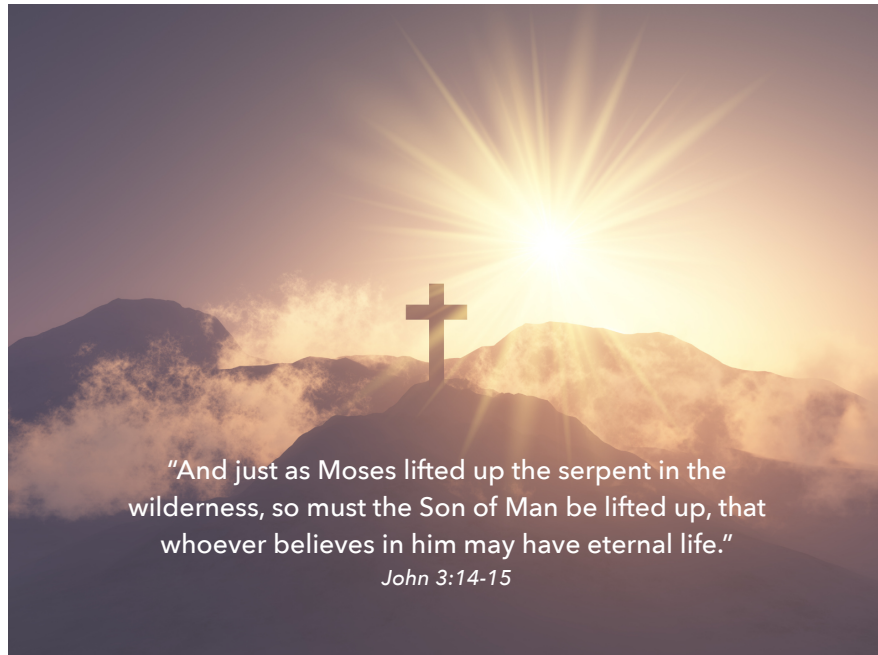


NEWTOWN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

92 Church Hill Road, Sandy Hook, CT 06482

WELCOME TO WORSHIP!



Bishop Thomas J. Bickerton, New York Area
Rev. Alpher Sylvester, Connecticut District Superintendent

Church Staff

Rev. Stephen Volpe, Pastor
[203.232.2752](tel:203.232.2752)

Rev. E. Sue Klein, Deacon & Minister of Music
Diane Fuchs, Wesley Learning Center, Director
Rae Steare, Office Administrator

[203.426.9998](tel:203.426.9998)
churchoffice@newtown-umc.org
numc.us

Service of Worship

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

Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 10, 2024

9:30 am

**denotes standing, if able*

GATHERING TO WORSHIP GOD *(We gather as the community of faith to give God praise)*

GATHERING MUSIC

"Cantique"
Flor Peeters

Rev. E. Sue Klein

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Steve Volpe

*PREPARATION for WORSHIP

"Surely the Presence"

UMH 328

Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place, I can feel His mighty power and His grace. I can hear the brush of angel's wings I see glory on each face; Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.

*CALL to WORSHIP

L: God is good.

P: All the time.

L: And, all the time,

P: God is good.

L: Let all God's people cry out in joy:

P: God's steadfast love endures forever.

L: Come! Let us worship the Lord of our salvation. Let us pray:

ALL: God of immeasurable grace, you meet us in our time of need and cause your face to shine upon us. You sent your Son into the world, that we might be saved; and you fashioned us into vessels of your love and light. Redeem us this day, O God, that we may be found worthy of the One who came to bring us life. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

*PASSING the PEACE of CHRIST

*HYMN

"God Is Here"

UMH 660

God is here! As we your people meet to offer praise and prayer, may we find in fuller measure what it is in Christ we share. Here, as in the world around us, all our varied skills and arts wait the coming of the Spirit into open minds and hearts.

Here are symbols to remind us of our life-long need of grace; here are table, font, and pulpit, here the cross has central place. Here, in honesty of preaching, here in silence, as in speech, here, in new-ness and renewal, God the Spirit comes to each.

Here our children find a welcome in the Shepherd's flock and fold; here as bread and wine are taken, Christ sustains us, as of old. Here the servants of the Servant seek in worship to explore what it means in daily living to believe and to adore.

Lord of all, of church and kingdom, in an age of change and doubt keep us faithful in the gospel, help us work your purpose out. Here, in this day's dedication, all we have to give, receive; we, who cannot live without you, we adore you, We believe!

PRAYER for CONFESSION [Silent Confession and Words of Assurance to Follow]

Gracious God, we are so tired of our own grumbling. Though we run around like errant children, we long to return to your warm embrace. Though we act as if the odds are stacked against us, we yearn to rest in the knowledge that your steadfast love endures forever. Though we crouch in the shadows we long to feel the warmth of your love shining upon us each day. Lead us from death into life, that we might live as children of light, and serve one another as heirs of your Son, Jesus, in whose name we pray; and now confess to you, O Lord, in silence...

ANTHEM

"He Became a Lamb"
Mary Kay Beall

Choir

MISSION MOMENT

*Patti Cohen-Hecht,
founder of Patti's Closet*

HEARING THE WORD OF GOD

(The community of faith hears the Scriptures read and receives teaching)

PRAYER for ILLUMINATION [in unison]

Lord, open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit that as the Scriptures are read and your Word proclaimed, we may hear with joy what you say to us today. Amen.

FIRST READING

Numbers 21:4-9

Debbie Stakel

*GOSPEL READING

John 3:14-21

Pastor Steve

*The GLORIA PATRI

UMH 70

CHILDREN'S WORD and MINISTRY

Pastor Steve

Children's Prayer:

Jesus, Savior, my best friend, come into my heart again.
Keep me safe and free to be a child whose trust is all in thee.
And show me, Lord, that you love me, for now and all eternity.
In the name of the Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Rev. Richard Griffin

Children are dismissed to Sunday School.

*HYMN

"Living for Jesus"

TFWS 2149

Living for Jesus a life that is true, striving to please him in all that I do, yielding allegiance, glad-hearted and free, this is the pathway of blessing for me.

Refrain: O Jesus, Lord and Savior, I give myself to thee; for thou in thy atonement, didst give thyself for me. I own no other master; my heart shall be thy throne, my life I give, hence forth to live; O Christ, for thee alone.

Living for Jesus who died in my place, bearing on Calvary my sin and disgrace, such love constrains me to answer his call, follow his leading and give him my all.

Refrain

Living for Jesus wherever I am, doing each duty in his holy name, willing to suffer affliction or loss, deeming each trial a part of my cross.

Refrain

Living for Jesus through earth's little while, my dearest treasure, the light of his smile, seeking the lost ones he died to redeem, bringing the weary to find rest in him.

Refrain

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

(The community of faith responds appropriately to hearing the Scriptures)

CELEBRATIONS and PRAYERS of the PEOPLE

Following each Celebration say, “Lord, we give thanks,” and after each Concern, “Lord, hear our prayer.”

THE LORD’S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

OUR TITHES and OFFERINGS

*DOXOLOGY

“Praise God”

UMH 94

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

*PRAYER of COMMITMENT

*HYMN

Lift High the Cross”

UMH 159

Refrain: Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim till all the world adore his sacred name.

Come, Christians, follow this triumphant sign. The hosts of God in unity combine.

Refrain

Each new-born servant of the Crucified bears on the brow the seal of him who died.

Refrain

O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree, as thou hast promised, draw the world to thee.

Refrain

So shall our song of triumph ever be: Praise to the Crucified for victory!

Refrain.

*BENEDICTION

*The AMEN

“Shalom to You”

UMH 666

*“Shalom to you now, shalom, my friends.
May God’s full mercies bless you, my friends.
In all your living and through your loving,
Christ be your shalom, Christ be your shalom .”*

POSTLUDE

*“Christ, Our Redeemer”
Tom Birchwood*

Rev. E. Sue Klein

**We pray this time of worship has refreshed your spirit.
God's blessings be yours to share!**

Giving options are also available online at numc.us.

Join us downstairs in Rauner Hall for
Coffee Hour immediately following worship.

Thanks to Dan & Janina Poole &
Anna Wiedemann for hosting!

The flowers on the altar today are
given by Sue Williams in loving
memory of her husband, Gary.



With special thanks to...

Dan & Janina Poole, our greeters and ushers

Debbie Stakel, our liturgist

*Candy & Lori Rothe, our tellers
our wonderful choir*

Rev. E. Sue Klein, our musician

Jaret Lynch our technical advisor

Announcements

Today is the deadline to order flowers for Easter!

A new Bible study is forming

Have you ever questioned if God can really use you in spite of your mistakes? If so, then join me for *God Never Gives Up on You*, a five-session study by Max Lucado tailor-made for the members of the "Lost Halo Society." We'll meet on Tuesday evenings, beginning April 2 at 7pm.

The cost for the book is still being determined, but if you are interested or have any questions, please reach out to Pastor Steve.

This Week's Schedule.

Mon., Mar 11

PRAYER GROUP meets at 11:30am in the Betts room.

The **TRUSTEES** meet at 7pm in the Betts room

Today is also the deadline to register online at numc.us for the annual **EASTER EGG HUNT**



Wed., Mar 13

The **DAYTIME DISCIPLESHIP GROUP** meets in person at 11:30am in the Betts room.

Thurs., Mar 14

CHOIR rehearsal begins at 7pm. *All are welcome!*

Upcoming

- Mon., Mar 18 **CHURCH COUNCIL** meets at 7pm in the Betts room
- Wed., Mar 20 Join us for **LEARN TO MEDITATE 2** at 7pm in the Betts room. RSVP to Jim at 203.518.3724.
- Fri., Mar 22 Today is the deadline for the **APRIL EVANGEL!!**
- Sat., Mar 23 NUMC's annual **EASTER EGG HUNT** (see enclosed flyer) 
- Mon., Mar 25 Announcing the **CT DISTRICT GATHERING** with Bishop Thomas J. Bickerton at the First United Methodist Church in Meriden. Details and the link for registration can be found [here](#) or at numc.us.
- Fri. Mar 29 The Office is closed today for Good Friday.
- Sun., Mar 31  Happy Easter! See the enclosed flyer to learn more about our **HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE**.
- Tues., Apr 2 The start of a new **SMALL GROUP STUDY** (see enclosed flyer)
- Wed., Apr 17 **LEARN TO MEDITATE 3** - Save the date!
- Sat., Apr 20 **UMCOR BASIC EARLY RESPONSE TEAM (ERT) TRAINING, 9-5PM.**
Former Pastor, Mel Kawakami, will lead this district-wide opportunity to become certified as an ERT member. For more information and to register, please visit numc.us.
- Sat., Apr 27 Save the date a Mission & Outreach event... **AFTERNOON TEA!**
- Sat., May 11 Save the date for a **MOTHER'S DAY WEEKEND CRAFT FAIR** to be held in Rauner Hall. If anyone is interested in being a vendor (or knows of anyone who may like to participate), please contact Sarah Ritenour at sarahsubaruct@gmail.com.



HOLY WEEK

Services

PALM SUNDAY March 24, beginning at 9:30am

We celebrate Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem with overtones of his impending crucifixion, using Palm branches and remembering what our Lord endured for the whole world.



MAUNDY THURSDAY March 28, beginning at 7:00pm

An evening service celebrated with Holy Communion.

PRAYER VIGIL March 28 - March 29

A continuous, 24 hour vigil as we kneel/sit beside our Lord as he enters his final hours as Emmanuel, beginning at the conclusion of the Maundy Thursday service and ending as the Good Friday service begins. [A sign-up sheet is be available in the narthex.](#)

GOOD FRIDAY March 29, beginning at 7:00pm

We will worship and observe the crucifixion of our Lord and Savior using the Service of Tenebrae (*the Service of Shadows*) as the candles are extinguished one by one and our Lord arrives closer to his triumphant death and his and our eternal triumph.

EASTER MORNING March 31

7:00am - A simple service in the memorial garden, celebrating as the women who approached Christ's tomb as the sun rose and found the tomb empty! The service should last about half an hour, so bring chairs if you feel the need.

9:30am - A service including the Easter story, beautiful music, flowers and a special children's conversation. Come and celebrate with us and with grand joy as we sing and praise our Risen Lord and Savior!

BISHOP'S DAY

Connecticut District



REV. DR. ALPHER SYLVESTER
Connecticut District
Superintendent



BISHOP THOMAS J. BICKERTON

Resident Bishop, New York Area



REV. DORIS
DALTON

Director of Connectional
Ministries



LONNIE
CHAFIN

Treasurer and Director
Administrative Services

Monday, March 25th, 2024

Location

First United Methodist Church Meriden

159 East Main Street Meriden, CT 06450

The New Room Cooperative Parish - Rev. Richard L. Hanse, Parish Coordinator

ALL ARE INVITED AND **STRONGLY ENCOURAGED** TO ATTEND.

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN! [CLICK HERE](#)

Agenda

4:00-5:00 PM COOPERATIVE PARISH LEADERSHIP

5:00-6:00 PM CLERGY CONVERSATION WITH BISHOP BICKERTON

6:00-7:20 PM DINNER

7:30-9:00 PM WELCOME AND OPENING WORDS BY BISHOP BICKERTON

REV. DORIS K. DALTON, DCM
MR. LONNIE CHAFIN, TREASURER

CLOSING WORSHIP WITH COMMUNION

It's Time to Order Flowers

to beautify the altar for Easter!

Type	Size	# of Plants	Price	Total Price
Easter Lily Easter Lily	6" 8"		\$13 \$33	
Tulip Tulip	6" 8"		\$10 \$17	
Hyacinth Hyacinth	6" 8"		\$10 \$17	
Tete - tete	4"		\$7	
Daffodil Daffodil	6" 8"		\$10 \$17	
Hydrangea	6"		\$20	
Total # or Plants			Total \$ Enclosed	

Orders must be received no later than March 10

I would like the bulletin to read:

Dedicated by: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

