

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.

Third Sunday of Easter

April 14, 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

"Andante"
Leberecht Baumert

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: Come with your doubts and fears.

P: This is scary.

L: Call on God, who will answer you.

P: God is hard to hear these days.

L: Come to the One who will give your souls peace.

P: It is so hard to believe.

L: Come, claim your identity as beloved children of God.

P: We come, uncertain, but longing to hear God speak to us this morning.

ALL: Come to us, God, for we are waiting – waiting and hoping that your word of peace will soothe our fearful and doubting souls. Open our hearts to the message you would share with us today through song, prayer and meditation, that our souls might reach out, touch you, and believe. Help us claim our identity as your beloved children, that we might radiate your love to others. Come, Beloved One, we are here to listen and be transformed. Amen.

*PASSING the PEACE of CHRIST

*HYMN

*"Easter People,
Raise Your Voices"*

UMH 304

Easter people, raise your voices, sounds of heaven in earth shall ring. Christ has brought us heaven's choices; heavenly music, let it ring. Alleluia! Alleluia! Easter people, let us sing.

Fear of death can no more stop us from our pressing here below. For our Lord empowered us to triumph over every foe. Alleluia! Alleluia! On to victory now we go.

Every day to us is Easter, with its resurrection song. When in trouble move the faster to our God who rights the wrong. Alleluia! Alleluia! See the power of heavenly throngs.

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

God of our heart and lives, too many times have we doubted and turned away, failing to recognize you or your voice; denying our true identity. We despair of the way things are in the world and can find no true peace. We search for answers in places where truth cannot be found. We long to return to you, O God, that we

may hear your voice in the maelstrom and in the cacophony of voices that overwhelm our senses and cloud our minds. Strengthen our wondering faith, and fulfill our longing to truly know you. Open our minds to understand the Scriptures, and transform our lives into a powerful witness of your radical love for all. We pray this in the name of the risen Lord Jesus who lives forevermore; and now confess to you, O Lord, in silence . . .

ANTHEM

"God of Love"
Wilson/Knox

Choir

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

1 John 3:1-7

Sue Williams

*GOSPEL READING

Luke 24:36b-48

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

*"Come, Ye Faithful,
Raise the Strain"*

UMH 315

Come, ye faithful, raise the strain of triumphant gladness; God hath brought forth Israel into joy from sadness; loosed from Pharaoh's bitter yoke Jacob's sons and daughters, led them with unmoistened feet through the Red Sea waters.

'Tis the spring of souls today; Christ hath burst his prison, and from three days' sleep in death as a sun hath risen; all the winter of our sins, long and dark, is flying from his light, to whom we give laud and praise undying.

Now the queen of seasons, bright with the day of splendor, with the royal feast of feasts, comes its joy to render; comes to glad Jerusalem, who with true affection welcomes in unwearied strains Jesus' resurrection.

Neither might the gates of death, nor the tomb's dark portal, nor the watchers, nor the seal hold thee as a mortal; but today amidst the twelve thou didst stand, bestowing that thy peace which evermore passeth human knowing.

"Alleluia" now we cry to our King immortal, who, triumphant, burst the bars of the tomb's dark portal; "Alleluia" with the Son, God the Father praising, "Alleluia" yet again to the Spirit raising.

MESSAGE

"Mail-Order Faith"

Pastor Steve

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

"The Day of Resurrection"

UMH 303

The day of resurrection! Earth, tell it out abroad; the passover of gladness, the passover of God. From death to life eternal, from earth unto the sky, our Christ hath brought us over, with hymns of victory.

Our hearts be pure from evil, that we may see aright the Lord in rays eternal of resurrection light; and listening to his accents, may hear, so calm and plain, his own "All hail!" and, hearing, may raise the victor strain.

Now let the heavens be joyful! Let earth the song begin! Let the round world keep triumph, and all that is there-in! Let all things seen and unseen their notes in gladness blend, for Christ the Lord hath risen, our joy that hath no end.

*BENEDICTION

*The AMEN

"Because He Lives"

UMH 364 refrain

*"Because he lives, I can face tomorrow;
because he lives, all fear is gone;
because I know he holds the future,
and life is worth the living just because he lives."*

POSTLUDE

*"Epilogue"
Alexandre Guilmant*

Rev. E. Sue Klein

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



This Week's Schedule.

- Mon., Apr 15 **PRAYER GROUP** meets at 11:30am in the Betts room.
CHURCH COUNCIL meets at 7pm in the Betts room
- Tues., Apr 16 **SMALL GROUP STUDY** meets in person and online at 7pm
- Wed., Apr 17 The **DAYTIME DISCIPLESHIP GROUP** meets in person at 11:30am in the Betts room.
LEARN TO MEDITATE 3 - RSVP to Jim Willis at 203.518.3724
- Thurs., Apr 18 **CHOIR PRACTICE** begins at 7pm. All are welcome!
- 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. See insert for more information and visit numc.us to register.

Upcoming

- Mon. April 22 The **EVANGEL DEADLINE** is today!
- Sat., Apr 27 Mission & Outreach presents an... **AFTERNOON TEA!** See insert.
- Fri. May 3 thru
Mon. May 13 *Rae will be out of the office, Please plan ahead for anything you may need.*
- Sat., May 11 **MOTHER'S DAY WEEKEND CRAFT FAIR** 10am to 4pm in Rauner Hall. Come shop with a friend and then enjoy the day in lovely Sandy Hook!
- Sat., May 18 Mark your calendar and spread the word for our next **SPAGHETTI DINNER** with live music from the 70s to today!
- FRI., MAY 24 **THE EVANGEL DEADLINE** is today!

Giving options are also available online at numc.us.



Interested in Disaster Response Ministry?

Hold the Date!

Saturday, April 20th, 9:00am – 5:00pm (8:45am 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 early response techniques, including tarping, debris removal, cleaning out flooded homes, and more.



Earn a 3-year ERT Badge

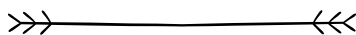
Upon successful completion of the training and after fulfilling a background check, you will be eligible to apply for a 3-year ERT badge.

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



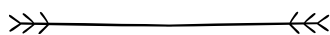
You're Invited
AFTERNOON TEA

SATURDAY | APRIL 27
1 TO 2:30PM



A SELECTION OF SANDWICHES AND SWEET TREATS
ALONG WITH A PROPER POT OF TEA AND LIVE MUSIC
PROVIDED BY JON VOKET

Please note that gluten-free options are not available



NUMC's Mission & Outreach cordially invites you to their spring fundraising event. Proceeds to benefit the many wonderful organizations sponsored annually.

PLEASE BOOK IN ADVANCE AS SEATING IS LIMITED
VISIT NUMC.US FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO REGISTER.