

CONNECTIONS

Mission Statement: To equip all to joyfully grow their faith, seek God's will and serve others within a welcoming community centered on Jesus Christ. Wethersfield United Methodist Church welcomes, into full participation in our community, all persons, regardless of sexual orientation, race, gender, age, ability, economic status, immigration status, or culture.

March 17, 2024

Wethersfield
United Methodist Church
150 Prospect Street
Wethersfield, CT 06109
860-529-2025
info@wethersfieldchurch.org
www.wethersfieldchurch.org



Fifth Sunday in Lent

Worship Service
at 10:30 a.m.

The Hour Has Come | Sermon by Pastor John

Please join us for an in-person Worship Service, led by Pastor John, in the Sanctuary at church and on Zoom!

For those who would prefer to stay at home and attend worship by Zoom, you will see our worship service in the Sanctuary! **The link for Zoom can be found on this page in the right column.**

Our worship slide show, which includes music lyrics, will be projected on our screen in the Sanctuary. *William Weiner* will be our guest instrumentalist, *Pastor John* will lead the Children's Moment, *Carol Buongirno* will read Scripture, *Suzanne Neafus* will perform a bell solo during the Offertory and *Jan Ironside* will lead Joys and Concerns.

You are invited to Fellowship Coffee Hour following the service.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84722132988?pwd=7S5e0nbMy5xsft2PkkccbnQEJYPBdf.1>

Meeting ID: 847 2213 2988

Passcode: 150051

Dial by your location

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

+1 305 224 1968 US

+1 309 205 3325 US

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 646 931 3860 US

+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

Find your local number:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/kdhZ6shQgl>



Palm Sunday is March 24, Worship Service at 10:30 a.m.

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Pastor: The Rev. John A. Thomason

Older Adult Ministry: Jan Ironside

Music Ministry: Michael Gowdy

Director of Children and Youth Ministry:
Elishia McAllister

Office Administrator: Karen Rudewicz

Treasurer: Dawn Montenieri

Custodian: Ryan O'Connor

THE CONNECTIONS NEWSLETTER

To give everyone enough time to read *Connections* before the weekend starts, we email it to you on Thursdays. The deadline for submitting articles for *Connections* is 9:00 a.m. on Tuesdays.

Tuesday, March 19 at 9:00 a.m. is the deadline for the next issue of *Connections*. Thank you.

FROM PASTOR JOHN

A few months ago, I took my grandson to the Connecticut Science Center in downtown Hartford, where we were fascinated by an exhibit depicting a historic flood on the nearby Connecticut River. After our water-logged February and March, 2024, museum curators may soon be adding to that exhibit!

I trust most of you have heard about the recent and repeated flooding in our church basement, which has damaged floors, walls, and the contents of classrooms and storage spaces. Our Trustees have responded marvelously to this crisis, calling in companies to pump out water and remove damaged materials, and conferring with town of Wethersfield officials and insurance companies. Some of our Trustees have also spent countless hours doing hands-on damage control. After last week's basement flooding (3 inches!), *Gary Schaffrick*, *Bruce Bockstael*, and *Russ Sinisi* were in the building very early in the morning to deal with the situation. We cannot thank them enough for their labor of love!

The good news is that the repetitive flooding does not appear to be the fault of our own building infrastructure. The issue is external, in city water and sewage systems that have been strained beyond their capacity. While those issues are being addressed, the Trustees are doing everything they can to make our basement as watertight as possible. Next week, the church building will be closed from 6:00 AM to 12:00 noon so ongoing work can be done. Our Office Administrator, *Karen Rudewicz*, will continue to work from home as she has this week. It goes without saying that possible renovations and modifications of the basement space are on hold until the flooding problem has been resolved. For the sake of your safety and health, please refrain from going downstairs until these repair projects are completed. Thank you!

Grace and peace, *John*

How to contact Pastor John

- Working days on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. Available on Sunday afternoons and evenings for social contacts, appointments, and meetings.
- Church office phone, extension 113.

- Cellphone number: 845-707-5152, call or text; no landline at the parsonage.
- Church email address: johnthomason@wethersfieldchurch.org.
Personal email address: johnthomason1948@yahoo.com.

CONNECTIONS



This feature in our newsletter expresses thanks to people for special service to the church and highlights achievements of our members at school, at work, or in the community. Please text or email Pastor John with your contributions.

Lenten Coin Folders are now available. Please see, call or email Gary Schaffrick.

Thank you.

PALM SUNDAY



March 24, Worship Service at WUMC at 10:30 a.m.

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Maundy Thursday, March 28 - Joint Service with Rocky Hill UMC and Newington UMC at 7:00 p.m., at WUMC, led by Rev. John Thomason

Good Friday, March 29 - Joint Service with Rocky Hill UMC and Wethersfield UMC at 7:00 p.m., at Newington UMC, led by Rev. John Thomason and Rev. Robert Knebel

**Easter is
March 31,
2024**

NEW ARTICLES



EASTER EGG HUNT

We will be having an egg hunt for kids 10 and under after church on Easter Sunday. It will be outside if the weather is good or in Fellowship Hall. Meet us right after church in the hallway outside Fellowship Hall. All little kids are welcome!! If you are visiting for the first time, just follow the kids after church to find us.

CREATIVE PASTIMES/PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

We continue to meet on the 1st, 3rd, and 5th Thursdays of the month from 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. at WUMC in the Fireside Room. You are welcome to bring your portable handcraft any week you are able. Most of us knit or crochet. Sharon Richwine and Carol Herron recently delivered our winter hats, and the warm socks and toiletries many of you donated, to *Loaves and Fishes* in Hartford. This agency serves daily meals and provides other social services in the west end of Hartford. Prayer shawls are always available. Call Grace Hayes for information at 860-970-3108.

NEW ARTICLES

Please see below for an opportunity for all the golfer or eaters in the Congregation. **U.M. ARMY Northeast Invites You To "Swing For The Green"** . . . or if you are willing to donate an item for the silent auction, it will support UM Army Northeast.



**U.M. ARMY NORTHEAST
SWING FOR
THE GREEN**

**GOLF OUTING & DINNER
BENEFITING YOUTH MISSIONS**

- 18 Holes of Golf
- Prizes and Local Craft Beer Tastings
- 19th Hole Cocktail Hour
- Dinner
- Silent Auction



Sponsorships available!



**Lyman Orchards Golf Club
Middlefield, CT**

Friday, May 17th, 2024

**AT
1PM**

**GOLF & DINNER
\$150**



**COCKTAIL HOUR &
DINNER ONLY
\$60**



(Continued on next page)

NEW ARTICLES

Swing for the Green (continued)

Join us as a golfer, diner, or sponsor and help U.M. ARMY bring youth mission to folks all over the Northeast! U.M. ARMY is an acronym which stands for United in Mission, Action Reach-out Ministry by Youth. U.M. ARMY programs support low-income, seniors, and disabled community members through providing home repair and maintenance to those who are physically or financially unable to make needed repairs themselves.

Date: Friday, May 17, 2024

Time: 1:0 p.m. - Shotgun start (scramble format)

5:30 p.m.-.19th Hole Cocktail Hour followed by Dinner

Location: Gary Player Course at Lyman Orchards in
Middlefield, CT

Golf & Dinner \$150

Dinner Only \$60

A golf ticket includes:

18 Holes of Golf with prizes and local craft beer tastings

19th Hole Cocktail Hour

Dinner

Silent Auction

A dinner ticket includes:

19th Hole Cocktail Hour

Dinner

Silent Auction

Questions? Email Gina Grubbs at ginagrubbs@umarmy.org

To register please click on the link below:

[U.M. ARMY - United in Mission Golf Outing: Swing for the Green \(networkforgood.com\)](http://networkforgood.com)

NEW ARTICLES



News from the Connecticut District

Dear Connecticut District Family,

We are thrilled to announce not just one, but two incredible events happening right here in the Connecticut District! Mark your calendars because these are occasions you won't want to miss.

1. Bishop's Day with CT District

First United Methodist Church Meriden

We are delighted to extend a heartfelt invitation to you for a very special occasion – Bishop's Day with the CT District! Join us as we come together for a memorable and uplifting event, filled with heartfelt messages, meaningful fellowship, and expressions of gratitude. We look forward to sharing this momentous day with you!

[Register Now →](#)

2. CT District Evangelism Initiative 2024-25

West Hartford United Methodist Church

Friday, April 12th **Open to Clergy & Parish Leadership Only**

Forum with Rev. Dr. F. Douglas Powe Jr.

Saturday, April 13th **OPEN to ALL**

West Hartford United Methodist Church

Forum with Rev. Dr. F. Douglas Powe Jr. & POWERFUL Worship Concert

Registration Required for Saturday Only

[Register For SATURDAY →](#)

The CT District Evangelism Initiative is a cornerstone event aimed at spreading the love and teachings of our faith to the broader community. It's a chance for us to unite in purpose and reach out to those who may be seeking spiritual guidance, support, or simply a sense of belonging.

Both events promise to be unforgettable experiences, filled with spiritual fellowship and uplifting moments. Let's make lasting memories together at these exciting events in the Connecticut District.

We look forward to seeing you there!

CELEBRATING PASTOR JOHN'S RETIREMENT

Save the Date – Celebrating Pastor John's Retirement

Please join us for a special service on **Sunday, June 16** as we say "thank you" to Pastor John for his faithful stewardship of our church and honor a career filled with devotion, humility and grace. A celebration luncheon will follow the 10:30 a.m. service.

THE LITTLE FREE PANTRY



This is the Little Free Pantry talking.

So, who hasn't been affected by the cost of food? Do you have to watch where your money goes? BUT, do you still have enough so you're not hungry?

Food seems to be the expendable item when a set amount of income doesn't match the basics that are needed. Simply stated, many don't have enough food.

In the past few weeks, I have been so blessed to find my shelves crowded with food donations on several occasions. It's such a good feeling to know you realize how hard some people have it.

Thanks are definitely in order –

FOR THOSE WHO consistently and faithfully donate a few items again and again and again and for those who "stuff" me on occasions

FOR THOSE WHO also faithfully donate financial support on which I depend when things get tight

FOR THOSE WHO pray for my work to continue

And FOR THAT PERSON who leaves such pretty handmade hot pads which never stay on my shelves very long.

THANK YOU FOR SHOWING YOU CARE.

COUNTERS NEEDED

Subject: Counters Needed

Gerry Hayes has generously served as our primary Counter (to count our Sunday church offerings after church), and a few others have helped count for a particular month. In fairness to Gerry and to have more people with this expertise, I'm asking for volunteers to contact me (either by email or phone) to sign up to do a month or two of counting during 2024. The most urgent needs right now are counters

for March and June, but we need counters for months beyond June as well. Gerry will provide the needed training to all new volunteers.

Thank you.

Doug Weed
weedd721@aol.com
(860)-707-6636

MEN'S PALM SUNDAY SERVICE AND BREAKFAST

The 78th Annual Greater Hartford Methodist Men, Palm Sunday Communion Service and Breakfast

Sunday, March 24, 2024 at 6:30 a.m.
Trinity United Methodist Church
180 Park Ave
Windsor, CT 06095

In 1946, a group of men from several churches in Greater Hartford birth the idea of promoting increased fellowship among men of all the Methodist

churches. It is in this spirit of fellowship that we invite the men in your church to join us for the 78th Annual Communion Service and Breakfast.

Donation: \$10.00
Contact Basil R. Mahoney
Tel: 860-463-6087
Basilmahoney@comcast.net
RSVP by Sunday, March 17, 2024



CHOIR AND BELL CHOIR REHEARSALS

On, Thursday, March 21, the Bell Choir will rehearse at 6:30 p.m. in Old Fellowship Hall and the Chancel Choir will rehearse at 7:30 p.m. in the Music Room

MEET FOR MAHJONG!

A number of church members and friends of the church have taken an interest in playing American Mahjong. The suggestion was made to set a regular time to gather and play together here at the church once a week. Those who are interested are invited to come play Mahjong on Tuesdays from 10:00 a.m.-12:00 noon. All are welcome! Come join us to play or learn to play American Mahjong!



The Wethersfield United Methodist Church has a new Facebook page. Please follow us to be notified of all the events going on at our church.
<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61551685425003>

If you would like to make an electronic offering to WUMC, please click on this link:

[Donate \(paypal.com\)](https://www.paypal.com)

DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH MINISTRY

Youth Group: Looking ahead. . .

by Elishia McAllister, *Director of Children and Youth Ministry*

Spiritual Formation Hour for Middle and High School students meets every Sunday morning at 9:30 - 10:20 a.m. in the Cool Jude Youth Room.



Our books are in! We began our newest text for Spiritual Formation Hour (Sunday morning Bible Study), "Staying Awake, the Gospel for Changemakers," by Rev. Tyler Sit, on Sunday, February 11.

Rev. Tyler Sit has had the immense pleasure of being the church planter of New City Church, a church that focuses on environmental justice. He is a lover of Minnesota, a United Methodist pastor, and the son of a Chinese immigrant. Tyler earned a BS in Communication Studies from Boston University and a Masters of Divinity from Candler School of Theology, and he has lived in four continents. He has formal training as a prison chaplain, community organizer, and social entrepreneur. When he is not at New City, you'll find Tyler wandering around the Mississippi River.

New City has been featured in the New York Times, The Atlantic, Minnesota Public Radio, and more.

Y.A.A.H. - Young Adult Activity Hour is held every other Sunday, from 12:00 - 2:00 p.m. Our next Y.A.A.H is Sunday, March 24!

On March 16 we will have a group excursion outing for our full day of fun, to usher in the arrival of Spring!

On **Saturday, March 16**, we will be led by Matthew Garcia on our inaugural Youth Hike and Spring Picnic. We will warm our bodies up in the morning with an invigorating hike in the early afternoon sunshine. We will conclude with dinner and s'mores around the campfire in the evening. Parents, this is your free day! Enjoy it. Your kiddos will be full of joy and good food, and definitely ready for bed, by the time we wrap up our day (: Very excited to begin this annual tradition!

Please contact Elishia for time and location.



LADIES OUT TO LUNCH BUNCH

Ladies Out to Lunch Bunch

From Jan Ironside

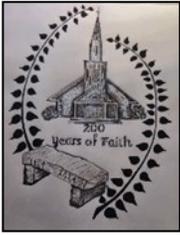
Here are some upcoming dates for the Ladies Out to Lunch Bunch:

April 11, 11:30 a.m., at Wood 'n Tap, in Rocky Hill

May 9, 11:30 a.m., at Saybrook Fish House, in Rocky Hill

June 13, 11:30 a.m., at Casa Mia, in Rocky Hill





200th CELEBRATION CORNER

A Battle for Methodism – Faith and Perseverance

Soon after the Rev. William Pease began preaching in the Academy Building as a circuit rider, the First Quarterly Conference was held in a grove. These details were written in a historical sketch by the Rev. Albert H. Nash in 1877:

“Nearby was a tannery and the enemy improved the opportunity by hanging sheepskins on fences conveniently near the grove. So dire was the stench that the conference adjourned perforce to a barn in the vicinity. Petty annoyances of this character seem to have been frequent and long continued, making the town a battlefield for Methodism from the very beginning.”

In 1882, the Rev. George L. Colburn wrote the following in his Brief Historical Sketch of the Wethersfield M.E. Church:

“Some of the leading men of the town no doubt thought they were doing God’s service by resisting what might have seemed to them a pernicious innovation of the established creed of the State. The spirit of prejudice which prevailed so largely throughout New England was aroused, and the spirit of intolerance which had driven the pilgrims from their homes beyond the sea, to the wilds of an unsettled country, to find a home on the inhospitable shores of the new world revived again, and Methodism found itself innocently arrayed against the established church of New England, and those who dared to announce the doctrines of atonement and full salvation through faith in the Son of God, were met with the fires of persecution, as far as petty annoyances and social ostracism could be employed, and when these failed to accomplish their end, personal violence was not infrequently the result.”

This local faith community never the less persevered and grew in number. On September 29, 1821, the Second Quarterly Conference selected a committee to secure land to build our first church. Rev. Colburn wrote that local opposition made this difficult, so Charles Winslow purchased a quarter-acre plot, with a dwelling, and two days after, sold it to the Methodist Society.

These original handwritten histories authored by Rev. Nash and Rev. Colburn are precious documents in our WUMC history artifacts, as well as the record of conferences as far back as 1821. Please contact Grace Hayes if you wish to view these pieces of history. Additionally, they will be displayed at our Homecoming Sunday celebration on September 15.

FELLOWSHIP COFFEE HOUR



Please, will you provide some goodies for Fellowship Coffee Hour on Sunday?

From Betty: I am asking for goodies as follows:

First Sunday	Last names starting with A-C
Second Sunday	Last names starting with D-I
Third Sunday	Last names starting with J-Q
Fourth Sunday	Last names starting with R-W
Fifth Sunday	Anyone on a Committee

Many thanks to all who contribute goodies for Coffee Hour.

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVES

Gerry and I enjoy facilitating Red Cross Blood Drives. We would appreciate having a few other church members to serve as backup if we are unable to be present for any unexpected reason. It involves unlocking the FLC at 7:00 a.m. and setting up tables and chairs, and taking them down and securing the building at 2:00 p.m. Please contact us if you are willing.

A Blood Drive will be held on **Saturday, March 23**. - *Gerry and Grace Hayes*

FUNDRAISER

THE 'BUCK-A-BOOK' BOOK NOOK

All the readers in our congregation will be happy to know that our 'Buck-a-Book' mission fundraiser is back! BUT IN A NEW FORM!

The books will be located in the foyer of the FLC in bookcases. Just stop by, browse through the shelves, and leave a 'Buck-a-Book' in the donation box. The books that we have in storage will be added to the shelves gradually. . .so stop by often to see what is new!

Covid Policy - Effective September 4, 2022: WUMC returned to a "mask optional" policy for worship services, Congregants are encouraged to continue with masking and social distancing as they feel comfortable. WUMC will continue to follow state guidelines as they become available. -*WUMC Church Council*

CALENDAR

Please note: The information in this calendar is based on the online calendar as of March 13.

SUNDAY, March 17

- **Sunday School for all ages at 9:30 -10:20 a.m. in various classrooms**
- **Fifth Sunday in Lent Worship Service, in the Sanctuary and by Zoom at 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.**
- **Fellowship Coffee Hour at 11:30 - 1:00 p.m. in the FLC and Kitchen**

Rental at 2:00 - 5:00 p.m. in Old Fellowship Hall

MONDAY, March 18

Wordly Women Bible Study at 9:30 - 11:00 a.m.
in the Fireside Room

Rental at 4:00 - 6:30 p.m. in the FLC and Kitchen

Wordly Women Bible Study at 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.
by Zoom (contact Judy Harvey for link)

Rental at 7:00 - 9:30 p.m. in the FLC

TUESDAY, March 19

Morning Prayer at 9:00 a.m. in the Fireside Room

Meet for Mahjong at 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
in Old Fellowship Hall

Rental at 4:00 - 8:00 p.m. in the FLC and Kitchen
Church Council Meeting at 6:30 p.m.

in the Choir Room

Rental at 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. in Old Fellowship Hall

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20

Rental at 4:00 - 8:00 p.m. in the FLC and Kitchen

Rental at 6:00 - 10:00 p.m. in the Music Room

Education Meeting at 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. by Zoom

THURSDAY, MARCH 21

Creative Pastimes at 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

in the Fireside Room

Rental at 4:00 - 8:00 p.m. in the FLC and Kitchen

Bell Choir at 6:30 p.m. in Old Fellowship Hall

Chancel Choir at 7:30 p.m. in the Music Room

FRIDAY, March 22

Rental at 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

in Old Fellowship Hall

Rental at 4:00 - 8:00 p.m. in the FLC and
Kitchen

Rental at 6:00 - 10:00 p.m. in the Music Room

SATURDAY, MARCH 23

Rental - Red Cross Blood Drive at

7:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. in the FLC

SUNDAY, March 24 - Palm Sunday

- **Sunday School for all ages at 9:30 -10:20 a.m. in various classrooms**
- **Palm Sunday Worship Service, in the Sanctuary and by Zoom at 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.**
- **Fellowship Coffee Hour at 11:30 - 1:00 p.m. in the FLC and Kitchen**
- **Y.A.A.H. - Young Adult Activity Hour at 12:00 - 2:00 p.m. in the Cool Jude Youth Room, FLC and Kitchen**

CELEBRATIONS!

Birthdays

3/21 Allison Barse

3/21 Helen Richwine

3/23 Girard Hayes

Please contact Karen, Office Administrator, if your birthday or anniversary is not included here or if you have any changes and/or corrections to these lists. Thank you.

Wethersfield United Methodist Church
150 Prospect Street
Wethersfield, CT 06109