

# 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 31, 2024

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



## Easter Sunday Worship Service at 10:30 a.m.

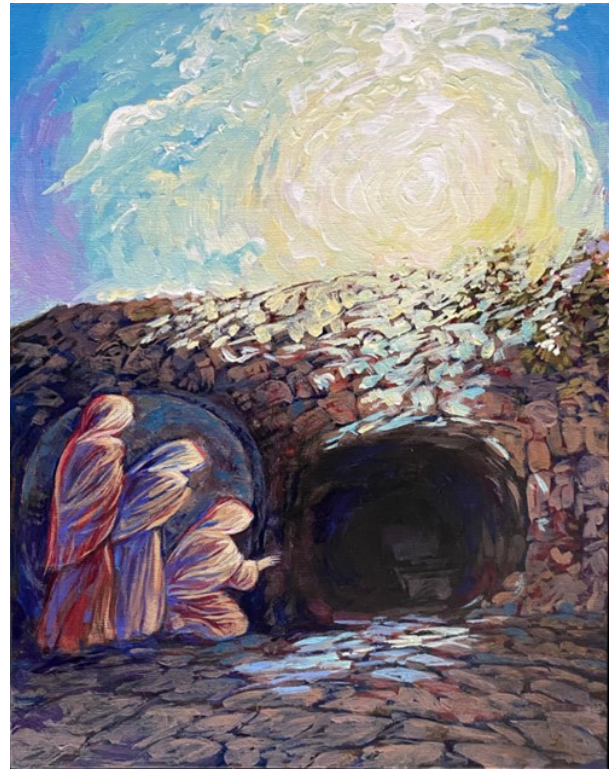
*The End Is the Beginning*  
Sermon by Pastor John

**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. *Mike Gowdy* will be playing piano, singing and leading music, *Fallon McAllister* will bring in the Christ Candle, *Elishia McAllister* will lead the Children's Moment, the Bell Choir will provide Special Music, *Colin Armour* will read Scripture, the *Choir* will sing during the Offertory, and *Jan Ironside* will lead the Prayers of the People. During the worship service, there will be a Reception of a New Member to WUMC.

**There is no Fellowship Coffee Hour today (March 31).**



### 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>

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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

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## 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, April 2 at 9:00 a.m.** is the deadline for the next issue of *Connections*. Thank you.

## FROM PASTOR JOHN

Our Palm Sunday celebration was heightened by the announcement that *Rev. Marion Hubbard* has been appointed to be your next pastor. Knowing and respecting Marion as you and I do, I was delighted by this news and sensed that you as a congregation were delighted as well. Marion has voiced her eagerness to come out of retirement and resume pastoral ministry; she has great gifts and vitality to share; she is familiar with your recent history as a church; and she already has deep personal bonds to members of our fellowship.

It is highly unusual for a pastor's predecessor and successor to be one and the same person! But with Marion's appointment, that is my good fortune and your good fortune. I look forward to working with her during this transitional period and look forward even more to the great things you will experience during her pastoral tenure.

I wish each of you a meaningful Holy Week and a blessed Easter.

Grace and peace, *John*

### MEMBERSHIP ORIENTATION CLASS

**Sunday, April 7, 11:45 a.m. , Fireside Room**

**Sunday, April 14, 9:30 a.m., Pastor's office**

If you are interested in learning more about the United Methodist Church and Wethersfield UMC, a two-part Membership Orientation class will be offered on the 1<sup>st</sup> two Sundays of April. Please note that the class times differ on those two Sundays. Contact Pastor John (845-707-5152) if you have questions.

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](mailto:johnthomason@wethersfieldchurch.org).  
Personal email address: [johnthomason1948@yahoo.com](mailto:johnthomason1948@yahoo.com).

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## 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.

## NEW ARTICLES

### Our new pastor, Rev. Dr. Marion Ryan Hubbard



As of July 1, our new pastor will be Rev. Dr. Marion Ryan Hubbard. She had previously served with us back in 2021 for 4 months while Rev. Beckford was on leave. Listed below is her biographical information

Rev. Dr. Marion Ryan Hubbard is a member of the New York Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church with 20 years of service in parish ministry as an ordained Elder. She has served as a pastor to seven churches in the New York Annual Conference. She earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology from Post University. She also holds a Master's of Divinity and a Doctor of Ministry degree from Drew University. Her doctorate dissertation was "A Guide to a Faith-Based Support Group for Adults Who Personally Experienced Childhood Trauma."

Marion has done extensive work in ministry in Ghana, Africa. In her ten years of service to the Ghanaian people, she was a co-founder of the Project Dorcas Medical Clinic in the north of Ghana in Tamale, bringing much-needed medical assistance to the wonderful people of the rural Yapalla Village and surrounding areas. She has also been a part of the Kairos International prison ministry team serving over 10 years in the Connecticut prison system.

Being a New Yorker, born and raised with a love of adventure, has taken her on many exciting journeys with God at her side. She has traveled to many states across the U.S. and around the world including Korea, China, India, Turkey, Jerusalem, Germany, the Czech Republic, England, Ireland, and Scotland.

In 1981, Marion became a single mom and left New York City with her three children and settled in Bethel, CT. As God would have it, twelve years later, the love of her life appeared, and she married for a second time to a wonderful man, Robert Hubbard. Between them, they have ten children and twenty-one grandchildren. They were married for 31 wonderful years until Bob's passing this past January from Dementia. In 2018, Marion retired from active ministry at the New York Annual Conference to take care of her husband who developed dementia. For the past six years, they have lived in Tequesta, FL, and attended First United Methodist of Jupiter, FL. She has been active in her local United Methodist church, serving wherever needed, preaching on occasion, visiting the shut-ins, and running Bible studies and support groups during the year. She is currently working part-time as a Counselor for Community Christian Counseling Center.

Her mother always stated, "Going out with Marion is like going on an adventure; you never know where you will end up." Pastor Marion is so excited to be joining us again to continue the journey of bringing God's love to Wethersfield and beyond.



### 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.

## NEW ARTICLES

### From Elishia McAllister, *Director of Children and Youth Ministry*

On Sunday, March 24, our Youth Group Y.A.A.H.'s theme was the "Sanctity of Service."

We screened the 16 minute short documentary, "Un Techo Para Meyling" (A Roof for Meyling) directed and edited by our Director of Youth and Children's Ministry in 2012: <https://vimeo.com/49410715> in order to kickstart our round table discussion highlighting why service to others is at the heart of our Christian faith.

As the C.S.Lewis foundation states "It is simply that God Himself declares it to be important, that God desires our service in the whole of our lives, and that we are to present everything to Him in order to serve Him."

We began construction of our Easter gift bags to bless first responders in the Wethersfield community, and highlighted what our upcoming UM Army expedition will look like this summer (it's not too late to sign up! Please email lead Missions Chair, Judy Dowd, if you are interested) as well as what to expect regarding programming for this venture.

We concluded our day with a smorgasbord of chicken wings, and all the complementary appetizer sides to accompany them, with homemade ICE CREAM SANDWICHES for dessert. Please see pictures below and in the right column.



#### Save the Date:

**Wednesday, April 8th, 3:00 p.m.-**

#### **Youth Group outing:**

Indoor 'Adventure Park' with ropes course/  
trampoline park

**Hibachi dinner, by popular demand, to follow!**

**Elishia McAllister (They/ Them/ Theirs)**

[LinkedIn profile](#)

Director of Youth & Children's Ministry,  
Wethersfield UMC

**(860) 529. 2025 | ext 115**

[Wethersfield UMC](#)



## NEW ARTICLES

From Judy Dowd



March 2024

Wendy and I just returned from two weeks in Ft Myers and Punta Gorda, working with two college disaster recovery teams. During that time we also had the opportunity to meet with David Draeger, the Mission Volunteer Coordinator for the Methodist Church of Haiti, and Molly McEntire, the Florida Conference Director of Missions at the Conference Center. David has been in the States for the past six weeks visiting family, churches, and other supporters of mission work in Haiti. Unknown to David at that time, his flight out of Port au Prince was one of the last commercial flights departing as gang activity has shut down the airport.

In one sense we are running out of words to describe the situation in Haiti. In summary, gang activity has now moved from the greater PAP area to rural communities to the more affluent areas of Petionville, Laboule and Thomassin. Just several days ago, more than 10 persons were murdered in Thomassin. For those who have been to Furcy, Petionville is where the Methodist Guest House is located and the others are two areas we pass on the way to up the mountain to Furcy.

While at the Conference Center, David made a short video which has been posted on the Florida Conference website. He describes the situation in Haiti, the work of the church, the challenges the people face, and a request for prayers and assistance. Here is the link to that video: <https://vimeo.com/923152367/b7bb63c999?share=copy>

Gangs have effectively shut down the economy. Major roads are blocked, farmers are extorted for payment, ports are under gang control, and the main airport is closed. Food access is difficult, expensive; gangs have looted food-aid stations, and millions are now considered having moved from “food-insecure” to a “famine-like” situation. Mass starvation is a concern both in urban and rural areas.

Aid-organizations are trying to find alternative ways of getting food to people. In some areas, gangs have offered days of “truce” which allow people to do what shopping they can, and for food to get through. One interesting scenario is, the Methodist Church at College Bird in Port au Prince has been given a reprieve to provide meals on Sundays following worship. According to David some 400+ meals have been provided each Sunday to local residents during this time. How long this will last no one knows. The whole situation is so tenuous.

What can we do? Mountains of Hope is seeking to work with several other organizations to provide emergency supplies. Earlier this month we received funds to provide seed and fertilizer to the Farmer’s Association. We are hoping to provide emergency rice and beans to community members as well to supplement what the farmer’s grow. Smyrna UMC in eastern North Carolina has offered \$1000 to help initiate this effort. We are grateful for their support.

*(Continued on next page)*

## NEW ARTICLES

### From Judy Dowd (Continued)

If you would like to support this effort please donate through the following means:

Funds may continue to be sent to the Frontier Foundation, 20 Soundview Avenue, White Plains, NY 10606. Please make checks out to "The Frontier Foundation" and indicate Mountains of Hope in the memo line. There is also a donation link on the MHH website [mountainsofhopeforhaiti.org](http://mountainsofhopeforhaiti.org). You will receive an immediate acknowledgement.

For those in Florida, you may send funds to Celebration UMC, 9501 SW Archer Road, Gainesville, Florida, 32608. Please make those checks out to Celebration UMC and also indicate Mountains of Hope in the memo lines. You can also donate online at [celebrationgnv.org](http://celebrationgnv.org). Click on "give" on the home page banner, then "donate" and it will take you to the Mountains of Hope donation link.

We again share with you the guiding principles that established Mountains of Hope 20 years ago.

As Mountains of Hope we:

- Affirm the sacred dignity and worth of every human being;
- Believe that all people have a God-given right to sufficient food, water, shelter and medical care; and opportunities for education and self-sustaining employment;
- Believe that a sustained presence and relationship in a community is the most effective means of enacting change and developing a more sustained presence and future for that community;
- Do not so much "do" for others, but help provide the basic necessities and tools by which others can "do" for themselves.

On behalf of the people we serve, we thank you for your ongoing support in prayers, gifts, and service.

Bondye bene nou,

Tom and Wendy

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### Caring for church grounds

The extensive grounds of WUMC are cared for by volunteers. Al Dowd and Doug Weed do all the lawn mowing, blowing, and raking. Gerry and Grace Hayes need help with the gardens. Could someone, or maybe a family, or church group adopt an area, such as around the gazebo, or in front of the sanctuary ramp, or the shrubbery bed in the middle of the FLC ramp? I plan to be working in the memorial garden, our largest flowering area, on Saturday April 13, 9:00 a.m. - noon. Stop by then or call me for more information. Happy spring.

-Grace Hayes, 860-970-3108

### CREATIVE PASTIMES/PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

We continue to meet on the 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> 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.

APRIL 2024

# HEALTHY CONNECTIONS



Central  
Connecticut  
Health  
District

Welcome to Central Connecticut Health District's Healthy Connections monthly newsletter. We hope that the information we have included will help you make healthy lifestyle choices and provide you with the latest information in community health.

## Community Conversation Monday, April 1st 6:30-7:30pm Public Mental Health Wellness

This community conversation is an open discussion about mental health wellness; what it is, how it can improve in the district and what resources are available.

- Share your thoughts with us on the mental wellness of our community.
- In-person at our main office (2080 Silas Deane Highway, Rocky Hill)
- Also available via Zoom or conference call. Please register for these options at [ccthd.org/chs](http://ccthd.org/chs)
- Refreshments will be served for in person participants.

For more details about this event,  
[ccthd.org/nphw-community-conversation](http://ccthd.org/nphw-community-conversation)  
or for help with registering, call 860-785-8383 x216

## Women's Health Fair Thursday, April 18th, 8am-1:30pm

- Mobile mammography van
- STI education, free condoms
- Health education
- Hepatitis C antibody screening (results in 30 minutes)
- Blood pressure screenings
- Information on CT's Early Detection and Prevention program



Take the Time is Hartford Hospital's digital mobile mammography program, bringing convenient, accessible screenings to locations across Connecticut.

You can either walk-in or schedule a 15 minute appointment from 8am-1:15 pm in our main office parking lot.

For those without insurance, grant funding is in place to cover the cost of your mammogram.

More details, eligibility requirements and appointment information can be found at [ccthd.org/mammography](http://ccthd.org/mammography).

For assistance with appointments,  
call 860-785-8383 x216

## Should I be concerned about mold in my home?

### What is mold?

Molds are microscopic organisms that are found virtually everywhere, both indoors and outdoors. Molds are types of fungi that live on plants, foods, dry leaves, wood, and other organic materials

### Can mold become a problem in my home?

Yes, mold needs moisture to thrive and multiply. Major sources of indoor moisture that can cause mold problems include:

- flooding
- backed-up sewers
- plumbing leaks
- leaky roofs
- humidifiers
- ice dams
- damp basements
- moisture from combustion appliances (furnace or stove)
- excess moisture in kitchens and bathrooms due to poor or no ventilation

### How am I exposed to indoor molds?

It is common to find mold spores in the air in Connecticut homes. Mold spores primarily cause health problems when they become airborne and are inhaled.

### What are possible health effects?

Typical symptoms reported by individuals exposed to mold may include:

- breathing difficulties
- asthma flare-ups
- dizziness
- dry, hacking cough
- sore throat
- headaches
- burning, reddened eyes
- nasal and sinus congestion
- shortness of breath
- skin irritation

### Should I test my home for mold?

The Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH) does not recommend testing as the first step to determine if you have a mold problem because there are no health-based air standards for levels of mold indoors.

Air testing almost never affects the final recommendations. If you can see or smell mold or mildew, you have a moisture and mold problem.

The first step is to control the moisture and then clean and dry out the moldy area. Then it is important to identify the moisture source and correct it.

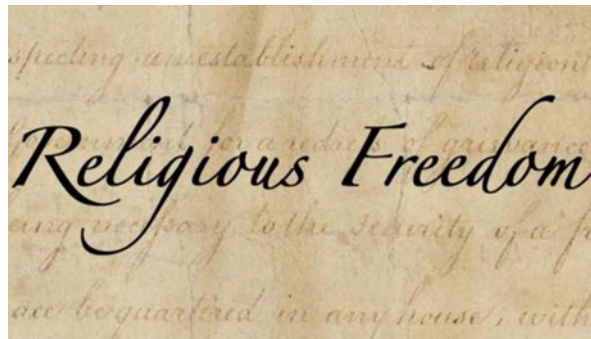
For more information on mold and for cleaning and removal guidance, please go to: [ct.gov/dph/mold](http://ct.gov/dph/mold)



## 200th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION CORNER



### 200th CELEBRATION CORNER



#### **A New State Constitution Opens the Door to Religious Freedom**

Connecticut adopted a new state constitution in 1818, which granted all people freedom to practice their own religions. As a result, new houses of worship were built to meet the rising need. On March 22, 1824, the trustees of the local Methodist Society purchased a quarter-acre plot with a dwelling at 130 Main Street from Charles Winslow for \$350. Our handwritten copy of the original legal document lists these trustees and charges them "to erect or build or cause to be erected or built thereon a house or place of worship for the use of the members of the Methodist Episcopal Church. . . and in further trust and confidence that they shall at all times and forever hereafter, permit such ministers and preachers belonging to said church as shall from time to time be duly authorized by the general conference. . . to preach and expound God's Holy Word therein."

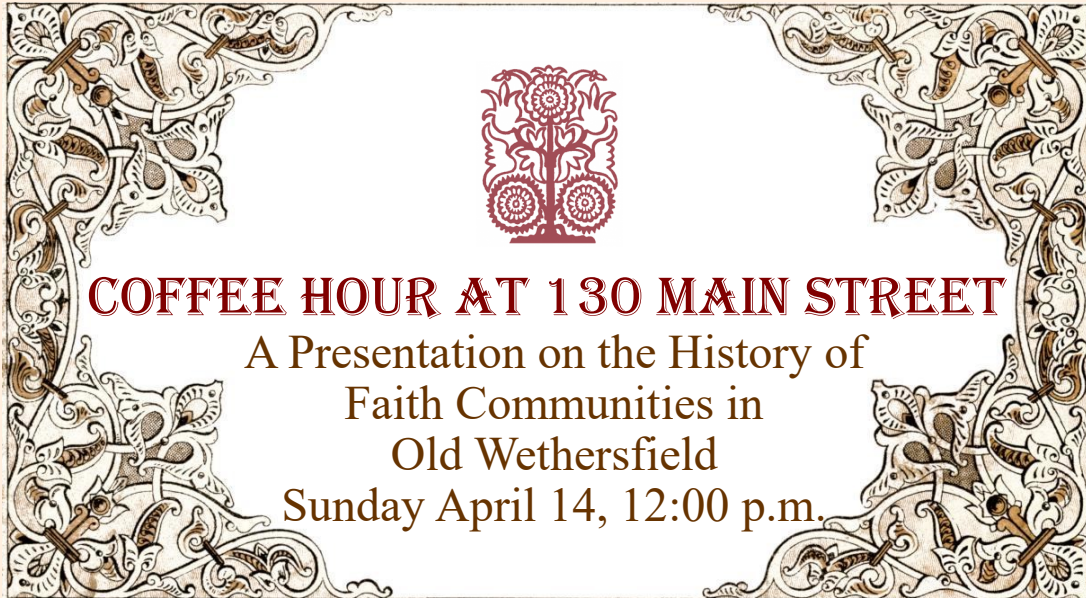
In the Brief Historical Sketch of the Wethersfield M.E. Church, by the Rev. George Colburn, published in 1882, we learn:

"The site for the church having been secured, containing a small house for a parsonage, the cornerstone was laid with appropriate ceremonies, April 18, 1824. The timber was contributed by different ones, as was also the work of building. But notwithstanding, much of the labor was donated, there was a debt which proved a heavy burden to the society for a number of years.

"Their house was built and enclosed, though for a long time they were unable to finish it. Crude seats were formed by placing planks across the timbers, upon which the worshippers sat while their feet rested on the ground. Uninviting as this may have appeared, it was their place of worship, dear to them. There were heard their songs of praise, and their prayers, burdened with a deep solitude for souls, breathed forth from hearts burning with a Saviour's love, ascended heavenward and moved the throne. Gradually the building was completed, and the debt finally liquidated."

Adjusted for inflation dollars today, the debt was \$11,200.

Please visit the bulletin board in the corridor near the Old Fellowship Hall to see copies of the documents quoted here.



### Details

After the WUMC service on Sunday, April 14, our after-worship coffee hour will be held at 12:00 p.m. at the hall at the rear of Temple Beth Torah at 130 Main Street in Old Wethersfield – the site of our fellowship from 1824 to 1959. At 12:30 p.m.,



we will proceed to our former sanctuary for a brief presentation on the history of faith communities in Old Wethersfield, given by *Wethersfield Historical Society* docents Carol Bruce and Doreen Ciarcia. Maps will be available for those interested in a self-guided tour afterward to nearby sites highlighted in the talk.

### Parking/Carpooling

Please leave promptly after worship to allow time to get to Temple Beth Torah at 130 Main Street in Old Wethersfield, which is approximately 1.6 miles from our Prospect Street church. Carpooling is suggested as there is no parking lot at the synagogue. Parking is available on Main Street, Garden Street and behind the Keeney Memorial Cultural Center at 200 Main Street. Please note that the entrances and toilet facilities at Temple Beth Torah are not handicapped accessible. We are, however, obtaining a handicapped ramp for the rear entrance leading to the hall just for this event. The 200th Anniversary Committee apologizes in advance for some of the obstacles to the full inclusiveness that is a primary goal of WUMC. If you are interested in carpooling from WUMC to the event, there will be a sign-up sheet on the Community Connections Board.

We are grateful to Temple Beth Torah for graciously welcoming us to celebrate our beginnings in this house of worship sacred to Christianity and Judaism.

## A NEW BOOK STUDY

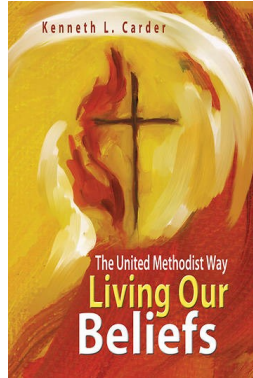
**A new book study at 9:30 a.m.,  
starting April 7**

### **“Living Our Beliefs”**

*The United Methodist Way*

By Kenneth L. Carder

Foreword by Randy L. Maddox



Faithful Christian discipleship requires a foundation in the core belief and practices of the Christian tradition. Wesley's sermons

and writing provide this stepping off point. “Living Our Beliefs” offers a basic explanation of the beliefs and practices of The United Methodist Church as defined in Part II of The Book of Discipline. Readers uncover a deeper understanding and experience of Christian faith as they live the United Methodist way.

Please contact Gary Schaffrick for more information.

## REGISTER FOR UM ARMY SUMMER CAMP

### **It's Time to Register for UM ARMY Summer Camp! - From Judy Dowd**

Summer is right around the corner and it is time to register for UM Army! The link for individual registrations is below. Note two important dates - **registration (now)** and June 1st payments are due to UM Army Northeast, so **I will want payments mid May**. Scholarships are available. Don't make money be the reason you don't register!

And remember, **we need to have 2 adults for every 5 youth registered**. Participating in UM Army is a life changing experience!

**Again, our week is Sunday, July 14th to Saturday, July 20th in Hampton, NH and the week is \$325.**

If you have any questions or would like any additional information, please contact Judy Dowd at (860) 989-5106. Come share an amazing experience with the awesome youth in our church!

**Individual Registration Link: [UMARMY.net](http://UMARMY.net) | [Online Mission Experience Management](#)**

### **Here are some dates to remember as we begin to plan for your trip:**

**April 15th** - We will connect and discuss your participant numbers and if they are changing. You can continue to add additional participants. After this date, your church will be financially responsible for the number of participants that have been registered.

**June 1st** - Your group's registration balance is due. For our refund policy, please visit our website at [umarmy.org](http://umarmy.org)

## CHOIR AND BELL CHOIR REHEARSALS

On, Thursday, April 4, 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.

# COUNCIL OF BISHOPS



**Council of Bishops**  
The United Methodist Church



*“Blessed are the peacemakers for they shall be called the children of God” Matthew 5:9 (NLT)*

As bishops of The United Methodist Church, we call for an immediate and permanent cease-fire in the conflict between Hamas and Israel in Gaza and pledge our prayers and commitment to work for a durable peace for Israelis, Palestinians, and all in the region.

As United Methodists, we join others in encouraging, *“...diplomatic initiatives that will engage both Israelis and Palestinians in an effort to understand the fears, hopes, and aspirations of each other. Such strategies should actively seek a way to promote a just and lasting peace and cooperation that will lead to a two-State solution...an end to the current occupation and violence, and the creation of a viable Palestinian state living side by side in peace with Israel...”*<sup>1</sup>

On October 7, 2023, an attack by Hamas left 1,200 Israelis dead and hundreds of hostages taken.

Since then, more than 30,000 have been killed by Israel’s bombardment of Gaza, the majority of them women and children. Innocent people continue to be killed because of the fighting, and many are dying of hunger and the spread of infectious disease.

The ability of aid organizations to attend to the critical needs of the victims of this prolonged war has also been sharply limited by the lack of meaningful negotiations. On February 29, starving Palestinians were fired upon as they sought food from an aid truck, with more than 100 persons killed by Israeli forces.

It is estimated that 1.8 million Palestinians have been displaced, their homes and communities destroyed.

The United Nations estimates that more than half a million people are living under “catastrophic levels of deprivation and starvation.”

We believe that the current military strategy of the Israeli government, supported by U.S. weapons transfers and aid, will only lead to the destruction of the entire Gaza Strip, an unconscionable death toll that grows daily, the perpetuation of one of the world’s longest conflicts, and the proliferation of increased enmity between Israelis and Palestinians, which has historically led to an increase in the militarization on both sides. There is no peace to be found in this strategy.

The lack of a true cease-fire after more than five months of this deadly conflict compels us to raise our voices now. We call for an immediate and permanent cease-fire in the Gaza Strip and a commitment from all involved parties, including Israel, Palestinians, surrounding Middle East countries, the U.S., and others to pursue a lasting peace.

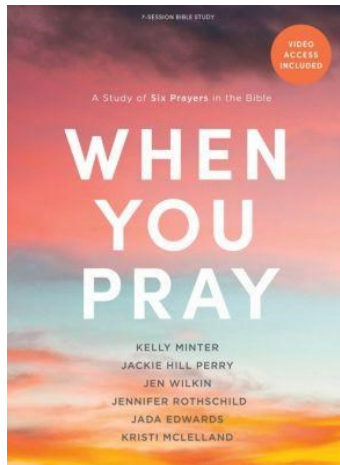
We pledge our prayers and commitment to work for a durable peace, an end to the violence and the release of the hostages.

<sup>1</sup> A Pathway for Peace in Palestine and Israel, *The Book of Resolutions of The United Methodist Church* – 2016

## **Media Contact:**

**Rev. Dr. Maidstone Mulenga**  
**Director of Communications - Council of Bishops**  
**(202) 748-5172 (Office)**

# WORDLY WOMEN SPRING STUDY



## Wordly Women Spring Study: “When You Pray. . .A Study of Six Prayers in the Bible”

A Study on Prayer from Kelly Minter, Jackie Hill Perry, Jen Wilkin,  
Jennifer Rothschild, Jada Edwards, and Kristi McLelland

Do you have trouble thinking of words to say to God when you pray? Are you afraid some emotions are too intense to express to God? Do you reach the end of a day only to realize you haven't prayed at all? You're not alone. Prayer is the way we relate to God, but sometimes it's a struggle. Throughout God's Word, we encounter many voices who teach us how to pray.

In this 7-session study, join with six beloved Bible teachers who will help you study prayers in the Bible that can inspire your own. You'll learn that God welcomes your praise and lament, your thanksgiving and intercession. You'll see examples of how to pray when you're alone and when you're gathered with others. Above all, you'll notice there's no one right way to pray. As you draw near to God through prayer, you'll find your faith strengthened and your heart united to Christ.

All women of the church are invited to join the Wordly Women's Spring Study: “When You Pray...A Study of Six Prayers in the Bible.” This is a 7-week video and workbook study. We will meet each Monday to view the video and for discussion, there is, also, homework to accomplish each week. We meet on Monday mornings (9:30 -11:00 a.m.) and Monday evenings (6:30 - 8:00 p.m.) in person in the Fireside Room **starting on Monday, April 1 through Monday, May 13.**

There is a sign-up sheet on the Community Connections Board. Please, let us know which study you will be attending. Each participant should purchase the workbook for the study “When You Pray....” sold on Amazon.com or Lifeway.com. Come and give the Wordly Women Bible study group a try. All are welcome to join us in the study of God's Word!



## FUNDRAISER FOR U M ARMY

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)

# FUNDRAISER FOR U M ARMY

## 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](mailto:ginagrubbs@umarmy.org)

To register please click on the link below:

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

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**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



## News from the Connecticut District

### 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.

The above event promises to be an unforgettable experience, filled with spiritual fellowship and uplifting moments. Let's make lasting memories together at this exciting event in the Connecticut District. We look forward to seeing you there!

## 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



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

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

## FELLOWSHIP COFFEE HOUR

**There will be no Coffee Hour on March 31 nor April 14.**

March 31 is Easter Sunday. Fellowship Hour on April 14 will take place at the original church location in Old Wethersfield. More details about that event are in a separate article on page 10.

**Please, will you provide some goodies for Fellowship Coffee Hour on April 7?**

**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.

## “BUCK A BOOK” BOOK NOOK FUNDRAISER

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!

## 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!

## 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](mailto:weedd721@aol.com)  
(860)-707-6636

## CALENDAR

**Please note: The information in this calendar is based on the online calendar as of March 30.**

### **SUNDAY, March 31 - Easter Sunday**

- **Sunday School for all ages at 9:30 -10:20 a.m. in various classrooms**
- **Easter Morning Worship Service, in the Sanctuary and by Zoom at 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.**
- **Please note: No Coffee Hour**
- **Easter Egg Hunt for Children under 10, following the service (11:30 a.m.). Please meet in the hallway outside of the FLC.**

### **MONDAY, April 1**

Wordly Women Bible Study at 9:30 - 11:00 a.m.  
in the Fireside Room  
Poll set up and Machine drop off, 3:00 - 8:00 p.m. in the FLC  
Wordly Women Bible Study at 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.  
in the Fireside Room

### **TUESDAY, April 2**

Election Day Primary, 6:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.  
in the FLC and Kitchen  
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  
Worship Ministry Meeting at 6:15 - 7:00 p.m.  
by Zoom  
Rental at 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. in Old Fellowship Hall

### **WEDNESDAY, April 3**

Rental at 4:00 - 8:00 p.m. in the FLC and Kitchen  
Rental at 6:00 - 10:00 p.m. in the Choir Room  
Mission Committee Meeting at 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.,  
by Zoom

### **THURSDAY, April 4**

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, April 5**

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 Choir Room

### **SATURDAY, April 6**

Rental at 8:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m. in the FLC  
Rental at 1:00 - 5:00 p.m. in the Choir Room

### **SUNDAY, April 7**

- **Sunday School for all ages at 9:30 -10:20 a.m. in various classrooms**
- **Second Sunday of Easter Worship Service with Communion, in the Sanctuary and by Zoom at 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.**
- **Fellowship Coffee Hour at 11:30 a.m. - 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**

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## CELEBRATIONS!

### **Birthdays**

3/31 Nancy Storms  
4/1 Carol Herron  
4/2 Mila Messier  
4/3 Mayson Di Mauro  
4/3 Andrew Ledwith  
4/6 Melissa Quinn

### **Anniversary**

4/5 Sharon and Chris Richwine

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