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.

April 21, 2024

Wethersfield
United Methodist Church

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



Fourth Sunday of Easter Worship Service at 10:30 a.m.

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, *Pastor John* will lead the Children's Moment, *Carol Buongirno* will read Scripture, there will be a solo by *Rosanne Gowdy* during the Offertory, *Jan Ironside* will lead Joys and Concerns and *Lindsay Appel* will lead the Covenant Moment.

Please join us for Fellowship Coffee Hour after worship today in the FLC and Kitchen.

Y.A.A.H.— Young Adult Activity Hour will be held after worship at 12:00 - 2:00 p.m. in the Cool Jude Youth Room and FLC

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

11 303 203 3323 03

+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/u/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

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 23 at 9:00 a.m. is the deadline for the next issue of *Connections*. Thank you.

FROM PASTOR JOHN

Remember...Rejoice...Rededicate. The theme for WUMC's 200th anniversary celebration orients us to the past, present, and future of our church. Last Sunday's gathering at Temple Beth Torah in Old Wethersfield was a trip down memory lane, an opportunity to reconnect with the physical roots of our congregation. The attendance, spirit, and content of this event were truly exceptional! Thanks to the Anniversary Committee for orchestrating the activity, and especially to *Grace Hayes* for serving as the liaison between our church and representatives of the synagogue.

This foray into the past will be followed by another event which will re-center us in the present and future. The April 27 workshop led by *Rev. Scott Summerville* is not an official part of our anniversary celebration, but it is highly relevant to it. In 2022, WUMC adopted a Congregational Covenant that set forth biblically-grounded principles to guide our relationships with one another as a faith community. The workshop will focus on how to put these principles into practice. It will address questions such as, "What does it really look like to 'speak the truth in love' in church meetings and private conversations?" "How do we communicate our feelings and convictions with honesty, but also with civility?" "How do we disagree without being disagreeable?" "How do we respond to conflict situations in ways that are helpful rather than harmful?"

Our resource person for this event, Scott Summerville, is one of my best friends and most valued mentors in pastoral ministry. He is a highly-trained and experienced specialist in organizational life and conflict resolution. But he will not simply come to us as an "answer man" to the questions mentioned above. He will engage us in a process that will allow us to discover and implement our own answers.

I cannot urge you strongly enough to take advantage of this opportunity to enhance your interpersonal skills and, in so doing, to help build up the body of Christ. Advance reservations will be helpful since food for lunch needs to be ordered, but walk-ins are welcome. Here again are the details of our two-part workshop day:

"Celebrating and Strengthening Our Covenant Community," 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon; Old Fellowship Hall; open to all members; designed to equip ourselves to embody more fully the spirit and principles of our Congregational Covenant.

Complimentary lunch, 12:00 noon

"Responding Effectively to Conflict," 1:00 – 3:00 p.m., Old Fellowship Hall; open to all, but specifically tailored to help church leaders engage in conversations that lead to conflict resolution.

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.

NEW ARTICLE

WUMC is Donating a Tree to Our Town

EARTH DAY: As part of our 200-year celebration of building the first Methodist church in Wethersfield, WUMC is donating a tree to our town. Watch for an oak tree to soon be planted between our parking lot and the roadway to Mill Woods Park.

HANDBELL CONCERT AT WUMC THIS SATURDAY

Suzanne Neafus is performing a solo at the event below, as well as playing with the massed group. If anyone has questions or wants to help at the event, please reach out to Suzanne.



200th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION CORNER

200 Years Ago...

On April 18, 1824, the cornerstone of the first Methodist church in Wethersfield was laid. "The long clapboard structure was built upon a tract of one-quarter acre, on which was standing the old-fashioned one-story dwelling house demolished in 1882. That house was at times used as a parsonage and at times rented out." In 1846, the pulpit was moved from the front to the back of the sanctuary and the pews turned around. By the 1877 arrival of the Rev. C. J. North, the building needed repair. "Much of the work was done by his own hands, though he was aided by members of the church. The interior was improved but the exterior of the building still retained its forbidden and forsaken look."



In April of 1880, the Rev. George L. Colburn preached his first sermon "with feelings of sadness mixed with hope. There stood the old church, against which the blasts of nearly 60 winters had beaten. Grim and bald as Horeb, a silent monument of a mighty past and a heroic race. Like Nehemiah he saw Zion in a ruined state and his soul was stirred within him. The cause of God and humanity demanded a change. The waste places must be repaired, Jerusalem must be rebuilt, the temple must be restored, and her altars renewed." After months of prayerful consideration, Rev. Colburn called a meeting on October 1, 1880 that led to the voting on a resolution appointing him to act "as financial agent of the trustees and stewards ... to collect money for a building committee." A sum of \$2,500 was raised. (This event is documented in the handwritten record books the 200th anniversary committee has been reviewing.)

Subsequently, the structure was jacked up from the stone foundation and moved 22 feet east and 4 feet south. Have you ever wondered how that original cornerstone, with the April 18, 1824 inscription still visible, could be near our Prospect Street Memorial Garden, even as the 130 Main Street building still stands? Well, we brought it with us in 1959!

Then, the old house was razed. Excavation began on March 17, 1882 and was completed on April 5 of the same year. "Considerable of the labor of excavating was contributed by friends of the society. An edition was made to the east end, a good cellar built under the whole, old-style windows replaced with others of modern design with cathedral glass. Uncomfortable seats were replaced, a 20 x 30 foot room was added for society gatherings and Sunday school with library closets, and an 80 foot tower with spire added." After purchasing the building in 1960, Temple Beth Torah made modifications, including repair of those windows and removal of the steeple.

This information is mostly found in the Brief Historical Sketch of the Wethersfield M. E. Church written by Rev. George L. Colburn and published in 1882. It contains many advertisements paid for by local town and Hartford businesses, such as the Hartford Life and Annuity Insurance Company, Plimpton manufacturer of paper goods, and local seed companies. "That the new church may be dedicated free of all indebtedness we have issued this little book, believing there are very few who will not aid us to the amount of 15 cents." Three very worn originals have survived. Copies of selected pages are displayed on the hallway bulletin board near the Old Fellowship Hall. A program entitled Dedicatory Services of the Wethersfield M.E. Church, Thursday, September 7, 1882 is also posted there.

UPCOMING EVENTS

APRIL

12-13

Hosted By GHP West Hartford UMC

FRIDAY 4/12 ALL CLERGY SATURDAY 4/13 ALL CHURCH LAITY

APRIL

20

Hosted by UMC of Hartford

12 PM - 1:30 PM ALL ARE WELCOMED GOAL IS TO HAVE PARTICIPATION FROM EACH CHURCH.

MAY



Hosted By GHP Trinity Windsor UMC 9AM - 3:PM

Evangelism Initiative w/ Dr. Douglas Powe Jr.

AUTHOR OF: TRANSFORMING EVANGELISM

April 12 Dr. Powe will be with all clergy and parish/church leaders of the CT District. On Saturday April 13, we will continue the evangelism retreat with all church laity and clergy and an afternoon District Easter Concert.

Earth Day Luncheon

Greater Hartford Parish Creation Care

Our parish goal is that 100% of our parish churches participate in recycling in their fellowship hall. The GHP Earth Day Luncheon will ensure that recycling cans are provided for each parish church. Please view the flyer for all event details.

CT District Conference w/ Dr. Leonard Sweet

AUTHOR OF: JESUS HUMAN & DESIGNER JESUS

Dr. Leonard Sweet will meet with clergy in the morning. We will have lunch and he will conclude as the Keynote speaker for the annual CT District Conference.

NYAC ANNUAL CONFERENCE JUNE 7-9TH

HELD IN STAMFORD CT AT THE HILTON

CONNECTIONALISM GHP

GREATER HARTFORD COOPERATIVE PARISH



THE COMMUNITY IS INVITED TO COME ENJOY

EARTH

FESTIVAL

Greater Hartford Cooperative Parish

APRIL 20th, 2024@

HELD UMC OF HARTFORD

571 FARMINGTON AVE. HARTFORD CT



Cultural Food Tasting

To celebrate the glorious diversity of creation, we will host foods from various cultures.



Special Guest Speakers

CT largest Compost organization leader of Blue Earth Composting will speak about how composting is a defense against global warming.

Leader in Renewable energy will speak about the benefits of transitioning to solar electricity.



Free Recycling Resources for Churches

One of our 2024 parish goals is to have 100% of our parish recycling in the fellowship hall. Recycling cans will be provided for churches who do not presently have recycling in their fellowship hall.





571 Farmington Ave. Hartford CT 860-523-5132 www.umcofhartford.org









CELEBRATION CONCERT

Celebration Concert

Come out on Saturday, May 4 at 3:00 p.m. for our Celebration Concert, commemorating 200 years of the WUMC! The concert will take place outdoors (weather permitting) in front of the church, so make sure to bring your folding chairs and blankets. There will also be food and refreshments available. The concert will include the choir, bell choir, praise band, and solos. Musical selections will include a range of music from traditional hymns to gospel, inspirational and Christian rock. This is a free event, so bring your friends, family, and neighbors! As a reminder, this is an alcohol-free event.

A
Wethersfield
United
Methodist
Church
200th
Anniversary
Event

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:

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

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, April 27**. - Gerry and Grace Hayes

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

Donate (paypal.com)

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? The memorial garden requires frequent weeding and deadheading. Please call Grace at 860-970-3108 to volunteer.

OUR NEW PASTOR

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



the love

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, 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.

A NEW BOOK STUDY

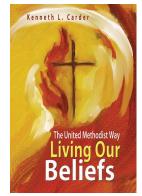
A Book Study on Sundays at 9:30 a.m.

"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: <u>UMARMY.net | Online Mission Experience Management</u>

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

CHOIR AND BELL CHOIR REHEARSALS

FUNDRAISER FOR UM 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.





FUNDRAISER FOR UM 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

To register please click on the link below:

<u>U.M. ARMY - United in Mission Golf Outing: Swing for the Green (networkforgood.com)</u>

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

FELLOWSHIP COFFEE HOUR

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

From Betty: I am asking for goodies as follows:

First Sunday
Second Sunday
Third Sunday
Fourth Sunday
Last names starting with A-C
Last names starting with D-I
Last names starting with J-Q
Last names starting with R-W
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 (860)-707-6636

CALENDAR

Please note: The information in this calendar is based on the online calendar as of April 18.

SUNDAY, April 21

- Sunday School for all ages at 9:30 -10:20 a.m. in various classrooms
- Fourth Sunday of Easter Worship Service, 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 and FLC

Just Come Anyway Book Club at 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. in the Cool Jude Youth Room

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

MONDAY, April 22

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. in the Fireside Room

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

TUESDAY, April 23

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 Worship Ministry Meeting at 6:30 p.m. by Zoom Rental at 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. in Old Fellowship Hall

WEDNESDAY, April 24

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

THURSDAY, April 25

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 26

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 27

Rental –Red Cross Blood Drive at 7:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. in the FLC

Workshops with Rev. Scott Summerville:

- Celebrating and Strengthening our Covenant Community, at 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon, in Old Fellowship Hall
- Complimentary Lunch, 12:00 noon
- Responding Effectively to Conflict, at 1:00 - 3:00 p.m., in Old Fellowship Hall

SUNDAY, April 28

- Sunday School for all ages at 9:30 -10:20 a.m. in various classrooms
- Fifth Sunday of Easter Worship Service, 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

CELEBRATIONS!

Birthdays

4/2 Angela Fuggetta

4/21 Joey DiMauro

4/26 Chris Richwine

4/26 Jeff Sabourin

4/28 Evan Lewis

4/28 Angelica Tafas

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.

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Wethersfield United Methodist Church 150 Prospect Street Wethersfield, CT 06109