

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.

January 12, 2025

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



BAPTISM OF THE LORD SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE AT 10:30 AM

"Remember Your Baptism" | Sermon by Rev. Marion Hubbard

Please join us for an in-person Worship Service, led by Rev. Marion Hubbard, 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, *Doug Weed* will be leading the Children's Moment, *Deb Draizen* will be reading Scripture, the *Choir* will sing during the Offertory and *Jan Ironside* will lead Joys and Concerns.

Following the service, please join us for Fellowship Hour.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83972112794?pwd=XmVNCu6YKlQfebNzEtnyGhl3iSHnVu.1>

Meeting ID: 839 7211 2794

Passcode: 150150

One tap mobile

+16469313860,,83972112794#,,,,*150150# US
+19292056099,,83972112794#,,,,*150150# US
(New York)

Dial by your location

- +1 646 931 3860 US
- +1 929 205 6099 US (New York)
- +1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)
- +1 305 224 1968 US
- +1 309 205 3325 US
- +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)
- +1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

Find your local number: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/kcL9wQYL8i>

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Pastor: The Rev. Dr. Marion Ryan Hubbard

Older Adult Ministry: Jan Ironside

Music Ministry: Michael Gowdy

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, January 14 at 9:00 a.m. is the deadline for the next issue of *Connections*. Thank you.

FROM THE PASTOR

Greetings in the name of the Lord, Jesus Christ,

Happy New Year! I wish all of you a year filled with God's blessing. As I write this letter for the Connections, I'm on break at the Bishop's retreat. I just heard the author, Ron Bell, tell us how to receive our Freedom in Jesus Christ. He focused on Philippians 4:13, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." I can't wait to share some of his thoughts with you.

Also, I wish to thank everyone for my vacation in Florida. I was able to take care of business pertaining to my condo and have time to visit with family. Thank you.

Remember: God loves you and so do I. And remember that there is nothing you can do about it.

God bless you all,
Pastor Marion

Contact information and office hours for Pastor Marion:

Cell: 203-241-9763

Email: pastormarion@wethersfieldchurch.org

Office Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday
from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Days off: Friday, Saturday and Monday

Please call first before coming to see
Pastor Marion, to make sure she is not on an
emergency call someplace else.

Thank you.

Congregational Covenant Wethersfield UMC 2022

We covenant together to create a community that supports one another, celebrates one another, and recognizes that each of us seeks to find in the body of Christ a place of safety, affirmation, and joy. Our communication will be guided by the biblical admonition to "speak the truth in love" (Ephesians 4:15), which means that we will express our convictions and feelings honestly, but also with sensitivity to the concerns of others.

We recognize that God calls us to different ministries and commitments. We will respect and support our church staff and all who accept office or commit themselves to the service of this church. When conflict or disagreement

arises, we will address each other directly. We will speak with people, not about people. If direct conversation does not resolve a conflict, we will seek God's guidance and appropriate help whenever we find our own wisdom inadequate. We may not always come to an agreement, but we will respect the decision of the majority and strive to maintain unity in the spirit of Christian Love.

We covenant to pray together to sustain and deepen our love relationship with God, whom we cannot love without loving one another (John 13:34-35, 1 John 4:20-21). We affirm this covenant, trusting in God's power to enable us to live it with courage, love, and compassion.

God be with you all,

Pastor Marion

Holy Communion

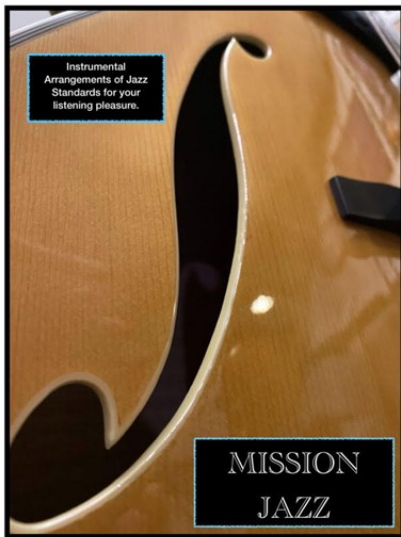
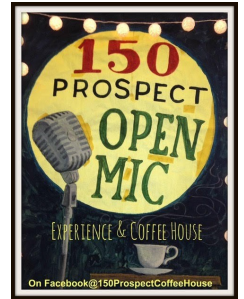
**Please know that everyone is welcome to participate in communion.
Also, we use only gluten free bread and grape juice instead of wine.**

NEW ARTICLES

Jazz For January 11

150 Prospect Open Mic and Coffee House Experience welcomes *Mission Jazz*, a quartet, as our anchors on Saturday, January 11, 2025, at 6:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Mission Jazz is a quartet on a “mission” to spread the timeless melodies, harmonies and rhythms of their favorite jazz standards. Their instrumental arrangements consist of Bossa Nova, Ballads, Swing, Blues and beyond. The Mission members enjoy using improvisation to keep the songs fresh and take them to new places.



Joe Harris ~ Drums/ Percussion

John Krawczyk ~ Electric Upright Bass

Brendan Walsh ~ Guitar

Dan Zurolo ~ Guitar

150 PROSPECT is substance-free, open to all. Musicians, singers, poets, dancers and comedians ages 14 and up may perform. Performers play two tunes, up to ten-minute sets. Microphones, amps and a keyboard (piano) are available. There are no restrictions on respectful content. Free homemade soups, chili, desserts, coffee and soft drinks are available.

Guests are asked to bring a non-perishable food item for neighbors in need.

Please visit: www.150prospect.org.

A free-will donation is welcomed. 150 Prospect is located at 150 Prospect Street, Wethersfield, CT.

150 Prospect runs from October to May and there is no charge for entry. This WUMC ministry began in 2015 and we've been blessed with many new friendships as we continue to offer a substance-free venue for performers and audiences alike.

For more information, contact Tanja Moriarty, [860-614-5158](tel:860-614-5158), or tanjam265@gmail.com



NEW ARTICLES



From Jan Ironside: Here are the dates for the Senior Ladies Out to Lunch Bunch

No lunch bunch in January.

February 13 - Saybrook Fish House, Rocky Hill

March 13 - Flynn's, South Glastonbury

April 10 - Wood-n-Tap, Rocky Hill

May 8 - Salute, Rocky Hill

June 12 - Maggie McFly's, Glastonbury



Gifts of Socks and Toiletries Are Being Collected for *Loaves and Fishes in Hartford*

The Creative Pastimes/Prayer Shawl knitters have been making hats and scarves all year to give to *Loaves and Fishes of Hartford*. This independent, non-profit company, located near St. Francis Hospital, serves over 35,000 hot meals annually and provides take-home sandwiches and lunch bags. Related services such as job training and a sewing program move clients beyond the crisis intervention of food support. Single mothers and families are often served. WUMC first brought hats to *Loaves and Fishes* in 1992. For many years the congregation has partnered with the hat makers by donating warm weather socks and toiletries.



This year, the Christmas trees in the narthex and Family Life Center hallway have been left up to display the hats. There is a box near each tree for your socks and toiletries gifts. Sharon Richwine delivers everything in mid-February. Anyone interested in going with her to display the hats, socks, and toiletries at *Loaves and Fishes* is welcome to join her. The clients are grateful and enjoy interacting and selecting what they could use. Call Grace Hayes about learning to make our hats or for knitting supplies to make them independently.

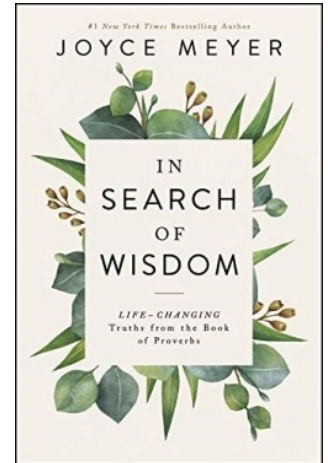
NEW ARTICLES

Wordly Women's Next Bible Study:

In Search of Wisdom: Life Changing Truths in the Book of Proverbs, by Joyce Meyer

#1 New York Times bestselling author Joyce Meyer takes us on a journey through the wisdom of Proverbs that leaves us transformed and prepared to face daily choices and challenges.

The book of Proverbs is a treasure trove of spiritual and practical wisdom that equips us to live our best lives. Knowledge is important, but if it isn't converted into action, it fails to create transformational change in our lives. It is important to gain a thoughtful and practical understanding of the seven foundational principles in the book of Proverbs: Wisdom, Understanding, Prudence, Knowledge, Discretion, Discernment, and Fear of the Lord.



All women of the church are invited to join the 'Word'ly Women's next Bible Study. This is a four-week book study. Each week we will gather to discuss a section of the book. We will meet on four Mondays, starting on February 3, 2025 through February 24, 2025. There is a Morning Class from 9:30 - 11:00 a.m. and an Evening Class from 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. The classes are held in the Fireside Room. The sign-up sheet is posted on the Community Connections Board. Please, purchase the book for this study and read the introduction and the first 8 chapters before the first class (the book is available on Amazon.com). Whether you are new to Bible study or a longtime student of the Word come join us to study the Book of Proverbs!

FELLOWSHIP COFFEE HOUR

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

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.

UM ARMY 2025

Summer 2025 will be here before you know it...

For anyone interested in participating in UM Army 2025 — youth who have completed 6th grade and the young at heart — we need you to be part of the WUMC team! We need participants of all ages - for every 5 youth we bring, we need 2 adults. Our team is registered for the week of Sunday, July 13 to Saturday, July 19 and we will be somewhere in Connecticut. The cost is \$325 per person and scholarships will be available for those that need it. Please consider coming — you won't regret it. If you have any questions or want to secure a spot, please reach out to Judy Dowd.



HUMAN RELATIONS DAY

January 19, 2025 is Human Relations Day, which is a special Sunday across our denomination, focused on fostering better relationships and supporting community and youth outreach.

On the Sunday before Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday, we take up a special offering to help bring his vision of a "beloved community" to life. Your gifts support important programs like Community Developers, United Methodist Voluntary Services, and Youth Offender Rehabilitation.



Thanks to your generosity, over **\$250,000** was raised last year to support these vital ministries through the Human Relations Day Sunday offering:

Fifty-seven percent of the funds received support the Community Developers Program (CDP) that strives to maintain and strengthen racial-ethnic minority congregations through local United Methodist churches and engage based on community needs.

Thirty-three percent of the funds received support The United Methodist Voluntary Services (UMVS) that serves as a resource to congregations and volunteers working to challenge unjust political, social, and economic systems.

Ten percent of the funds received support youth rehabilitation programs, empowering young people through church-based activities, mentoring programs, and boys' and girls' clubs.

For over 50 years, United Methodists have observed this special Sunday to honor the message Jesus lived out: that every one of God's children matters.

If you write a check, please include United Methodist Human Relations Day in the note section of your check.

"SHARE GOD'S LOVE" STAR TREE

This year we will once again have the opportunity to "Share God's Love" with those who are less fortunate during the Christmas season. The "Share God's Love" Star Tree will be displayed after Thanksgiving in **the hallway leading to the Family Life Center**. The tree is decorated with shiny stars that are labeled with the type of person who would be receiving your gift and the type of gift (for example: boy/age 6 - action figure). Just take a star that touches your heart and purchase the gift. Return the gift **UNWRAPPED**, with the **STAR ATTACHED**, by the **SPECIFIED RETURN DATE**. This year we are donating our gifts of love, to the town of Wethersfield's Social Service's Holiday Gift Drive and to the Hartford Neighborhood Center in the south end of Hartford. God shared his love with us by sending a most special gift...his son, Jesus, to us in Bethlehem. What a special way to help us remember the reason for the season. "Share God's Love" with someone who needs the "Hope" that Jesus brings.



UMCOR FLOOD BUCKETS

UMCOR has put out a call for Cleaning Kits (AKA: Flood buckets) due to the high demand caused by the recent hurricanes in the south east. Our goal is to complete at least 10 flood buckets here at WUMC. Stop by the Mission Bulletin Board in the office hallway to see how you can help. Whether you pick up instructions for a whole bucket (this makes a great family service project), contribute components of the bucket or donate money to the WUMC Mission Committee to purchase items to complete buckets. . .your help is appreciated.



"MEET FOR MAHJONG" TUESDAYS



The "Meet for Mahjong" group meets **every Tuesday morning, from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon** in the Old Fellowship Hall. Those who have been playing for awhile, those who have just learned how to play and those who would like to learn how to play. . .All are welcome!!! Our goal is to enjoy each other's company and have some fun.

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. Gerry will provide the needed training to all new volunteers. Thank you.

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

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 room 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 **January 25, 2025.** - *Gerry and Grace Hayes*



CALENDAR

Please note: The information in this calendar is based on the online calendar as of January 8.

SUNDAY, January 12 - Worship Time is 10:30 a.m.

- Sunday School at 9:30 - 10:15 a.m. in various classrooms
- Baptism of the Lord Worship Service, in the Sanctuary and by Zoom at 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.
- Fellowship Hour at 11:30 - 12:30 p.m., FLC

MONDAY, January 13

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
 Rental at 5:00 - 6:30 p.m., Old Fellowship Hall
 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, January 14

Morning Prayer at 10:00 a.m. in the Fireside Room
 Rental at 4:00 - 8:00 in the FLC and Kitchen
 Rental at 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. in Old Fellowship Hall
 Trustees Meeting at 6:30 p.m. in the Fireside Room

WEDNESDAY, January 15

Rental at 4:00 - 8:00 p.m. in the FLC and Kitchen
 Education Meeting at 6:30 p.m. by Zoom
 Finance Meeting at 6:45 p.m. in the Fireside Room

THURSDAY, January 16

Creative Pastimes at 1:00 - 3:00 p.m., Fireside Room
 Rental at 4:00 - 8:00 p.m., FLC and Kitchen

FRIDAY, January 17

Rental at 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. in Old Fellowship Hall
 Rental at 4:00 - 8:00 p.m., FLC and Kitchen
 Rental at 7:00 - 10:00 p.m. in the Music Room

SATURDAY, January 18

Rental at 3:00 - 6:00 p.m. in the Music Room

SUNDAY, January 19 - Worship Time is 10:30 a.m.

- Sunday School at 9:30 - 10:15 a.m. in various classrooms
- Second Sunday after the Epiphany Worship Service, in the Sanctuary and by Zoom at 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.
- Fellowship Hour at 11:30 - 12:30 p.m., FLC

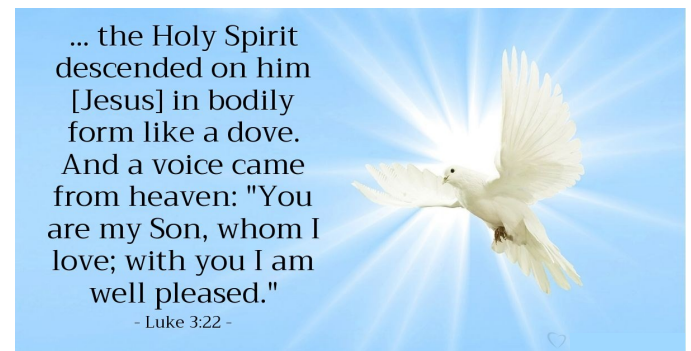
Just Come Anyway Book Club at 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. in the Fireside Room

CELEBRATIONS!

Birthdays (January 12 - 19)

- 1/12 Stacey Tinker
- 1/15 Jan Ironside
- 1/16 Glenn Appel
- 1/16 Juliann Garcia
- 1/17 Jack Sullivan

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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