

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 19, 2025

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



SECOND SUNDAY AFTER
THE EPIPHANY

HUMAN RELATIONS DAY

WORSHIP SERVICE AT
10:30 AM



“Spiritual Gifts” | 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 play piano, sing and lead music, *Pastor Marion* will lead the Children's Moment, the *Choir* will sing the Offertory Song, *Deb Draizen* will read Scripture 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 21 at 9:00 a.m. is the deadline for the next issue of *Connections*. Thank you.

FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Friends in Christ,

I am in the middle of taking down my tree and decorations. It gave me thoughts to ponder. I love the Christmas Season and want it to continue the whole year through, although, I want to put away the decorations and have my house back to normal. As a child, I remember my mother keeping up the tree one year until St. Patrick's Day when my father finally said "It is time, Dear."

With that remembrance, I hope it never becomes time to take away the Christmas Spirit of God's love. Decorations may need to come down, but not the love in our hearts for all God's children. I wish all of you the Christmas Spirit all year through. May God bless all of you.

Remember, God loves you and so do I and there is nothing you can do about it.

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



Altadena United Methodist Church in Altadena, CA, is reduced to rubble after the Palisades and Eaton fires swept through Southern California. Experts warn that Los Angeles is not yet out of danger as the fires remain uncontained. Photo by the Rev. Garth Gilliam, district superintendent, California-Pacific Annual Conference.

Give Now - Support California Wildfire Survivors

Join us in supporting communities devastated by wildfires. As wildfires continue to devastate communities in Southern California, thousands of families are left without homes, belongings or even basic necessities. Entire neighborhoods have been reduced to ashes.

UMCOR is meeting urgent needs through support of the California-Pacific Annual Conference's immediate relief efforts. Initially, we've provided emergency relief funding for food, water and essential supplies for evacuees and to bolster local volunteer efforts. And we'll continue to offer support through long-term recovery.

Join us in supporting the people of Los Angeles. Together, we can be a beacon of hope for families who have lost so much in this disaster.

To give by check, please send checks payable to Advance GCFA to:

Global Ministries | UMCOR
GPO
P.O. BOX 9068
NEW YORK, NY 10087-9068

To give online, please click on the link below:

[Global Ministries - UMCOR US Disaster Response and Recovery](#)

NEW ARTICLES

A Dehumidifier Is Needed

Does anyone have a spare dehumidifier that can be donated to the Parsonage? As you may have heard, Pastor Marion had a problem with mold in her basement last fall. Part of the problem was that the dehumidifier that was down there was not working. If you might have one available, either Pastor Marion, 203-241-9763, or Philip Munroe, 860-310-8721, can be contacted. Thank you!

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.



**The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s
Birthday Observance
Monday, January 20, 2025**

SENIOR LADIES OUT TO LUNCH BUNCH



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

No lunch bunch in January.
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 FOR LOAVES AND FISHES IN HARTFORD



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, 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.

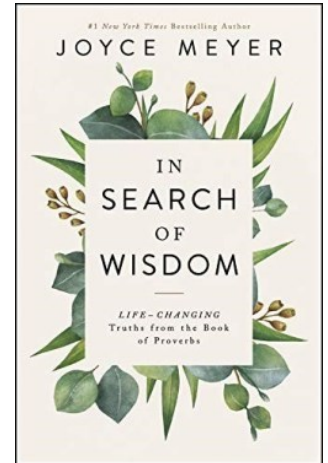
WORDLY WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

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

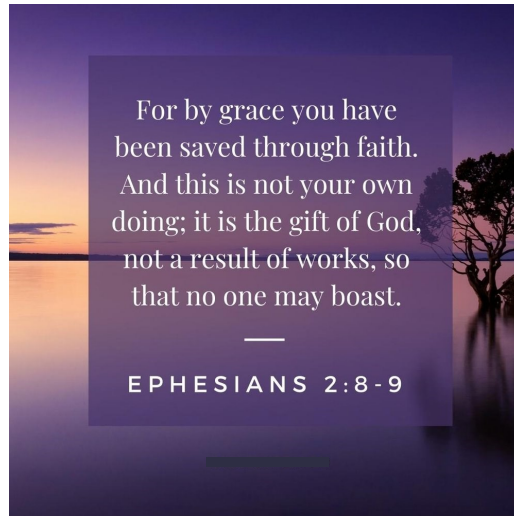
Many thanks to all who contribute goodies for Coffee Hour.

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.





“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 15.

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. - Human Relations Day -
- 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

MONDAY, January 20

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, January 21

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

Church Council Meeting at 6:30 p.m. in the Choir Room

WEDNESDAY, January 22

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

SPPRC Meeting at 6:30 p.m. in the Fireside Room

THURSDAY, January 23

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

FRIDAY, January 24

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

SATURDAY, January 25

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

SUNDAY, January 26 - Worship Time is 10:30 a.m.

- Sunday School at 9:30 - 10:15 a.m. in various classrooms
- Third 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

Rental at 2:30 - 5:30 p.m. in the Music Room

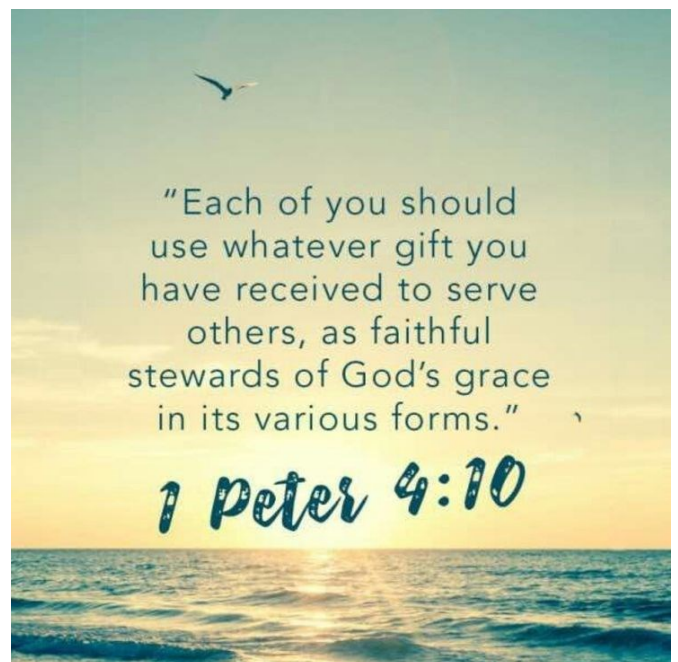
CELEBRATIONS!

Birthdays (January 19 - 26)

1/21 Craig Sullivan

1/26 Samuel Pedneault

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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150 Prospect Street
Wethersfield, CT 06109