

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.

February 9, 2025

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



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 and Grace Hayes* will lead the Children's Moment, *Gary Schaffrick* will read Scripture, the Offertory will be sung by the *Choir*, with *Mark Weaver* on drums, 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, February 11 at 9:00 a.m. is the deadline for the next issue of *Connections*. Thank you.

FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Friends in Christ,

I hope you all had a great week. We have been very busy around here at church—so much is happening. Work continues down in our basement, which is looking really good. Upstairs on the main level, we have been working on many soon-to-be events at our church.

As you know, our New Members Class will start on February 23 at 12:00 noon in the Fireside Room. Please let me know if you are interested in becoming a new member. We would love to have you join our church family. On that same day, we will celebrate Black History Month in our Worship service. I will speak on The Letter from the Birmingham Jail, written by Martin Luther King, Jr. You will not want to miss my sermon on the 23rd. Also, this Sunday is our Last Communion Study group meeting. Everyone is welcome to join us after coffee hour in the Fireside room around noon. We will end our study group with Communion.

On February 16, we will have our Co-operative Parish Black History Month celebration at the North United Methodist Church in Hartford at 4:00 p.m. Please make every effort to attend. It will be an energizing, spirit-filled worship service with music, dance, and a steel drum group from North Church. Also, remember that this year, the Ash Wednesday, March 5th worship service will be held at our church. Rocky Hill UMC and Newington UMC will be joining us.

This Sunday, I will be preaching on Luke 5:1-11. My title is: “Be Not Afraid, Come Follow Me.”

Also, this Saturday is 150 Prospect Open Mic Experience and Coffee House. I hope you can join us for great music, wonderful fellowship, and refreshments.

One final note: On the First Sunday of Lent, we will begin an 8:30 a.m. worship service that will last just half an hour. This service will feature an opening prayer, a Scripture reading, a sermonette, Prayers of the People, weekly communion, and a worship hymn. You can participate in either the 8:30 or 10:30 a.m. service or both. The 10:30 a.m. service will have communion only on the first Sunday of the month. No preparation is required for the 8:30 a.m. service. I will provide the communion elements and a disc with the hymn that we will sing.

Don't forget: God loves you, and so do I. And 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.

NEW ARTICLES

The Coats in Our Narthex Closet

There are several coats/jackets hanging in the Narthex closet that have been there for quite some time. If you own one of them, please claim it by February 16, 2025. Thank you.



Greater Hartford Parish Black History Month Program - Sunday, February 16, at 4:00 - 6:00 p.m. at North United Methodist Church

Join us for a Black History Month Celebration on Sunday, February 16 at 4:00 p.m. It will be an energizing, spirit-filled worship service with music, dance, and a steel drum group from North Church. This program is sponsored by the eight congregations in the Greater Hartford Parish of the CT District of the UMC's NY Conference.

NORTH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
1205 Albany Avenue, Hartford, CT 06112

Email: numc1205@sbcglobal.net

Phone Number: [\(860\) 525-0573](tel:(860)525-0573)

On February 23, 2025, our church will celebrate Black History Month at Sunday Morning Worship, at 10:30 a.m.

Please join us for a worship service, which will include some great African American Spirituals. Pastor Marion's sermon will be based on Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s "Letter from a Birmingham Jail."

Letter from
Birmingham Jail



We will start our new member's class on February 23

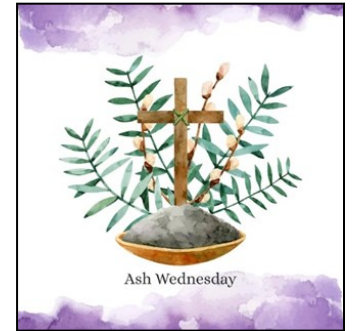
If you are interested in joining our Church family, please let Pastor Marion know. The classes will be held on **February 23, March 2 and March 9**, at 12:00 noon, in the Fireside Room.

NEW ARTICLES

Ash Wednesday Service

On March 5, we will host an Ash Wednesday service at 7:00 p.m. at our church, along with the Newington United Methodist Church and the Rocky Hill United Methodist Church.

Also, on March 5, there will be a time to get ashes from 12 noon to 1:00 p.m. All you need to do is drive by the corner of our church. Pastor Marion will say a prayer with you and give you ashes. At 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. there will be a Lenten Potluck Dinner in Old Fellowship Hall. We hope you will be able to come.



New - An 8:30 a.m. Worship Service with Communion

Starting the First Sunday in Lent, March 9, we will have an 8:30 - 9:00 a.m. weekly service every Sunday. It will include an opening prayer, a Scripture reading, a short but meaningful sermon, Prayers of the People, weekly communion, and a worship hymn. Those who need to be at an earlier service, please come. Those who like weekly communion, please come. You can participate in either the 8:30 or 10:30 a.m. service or both. The 10:30 a.m. service will have communion only on the first Sunday of the month. No preparation is required for the 8:30 a.m. service. Pastor Marion will provide the communion elements and a disc with the hymn that we will sing.

Potluck Dinners

During Lent, we will have a Wednesday night Potluck Dinner, devotional time, and a craft table for our young children, in Old Fellowship Hall. The dates for the dinners are March 5, 12, 19, 25, and April 2 and 9. Dinner is at 5:30 - 7:00 p.m. Please come and enjoy dinner with friends and make a Holy Lent.



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 **February 15, 2025**. - Gerry and Grace Hayes

POSTPONED



The UM ARMY Super Bowl Fundraiser, previously scheduled for this Sunday, is **POSTPONED.**

Please watch your email for updates.

Thank you.



CHOIR REHEARSAL SCHEDULE

February

Thursday, 2/6 - Rehearsal at 6:00 p.m.
Sunday, 2/9 - Choir Sings
Thursday, 2/13 - Rehearsal at 6:00 p.m.
Sunday, 2/16 - Choir Sings
Thursday, 2/20 - No Rehearsal
Thursday, 2/27 - Rehearsal at 6:00 p.m.

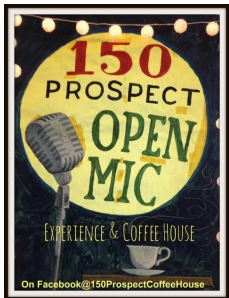
March

Sunday, 3/2 - Choir Sings
Wednesday, 3/5 - Ash Wednesday Service
Thursday, 3/6 - No rehearsal
Thursday, 3/13 - Rehearsal at 6:50 p.m.
Bell Choir rehearsals start (3/13). Time is 6:00 p.m.
Sunday, 3/16 - Choir Sings
Thursday, 3/20 - Rehearsal at 6:50 p.m.
Thursday, 3/27 - TBA

150 PROSPECT OPEN MIC EXPERIENCE

Sofia Nunzia to Anchor on February 8 at 150 Prospect Open Mic Experience and Coffee House! Join us at 6:00 - 9:00 p.m.

We are so excited to have Sofia Nunzia, an 18-year-old singer-songwriter as our anchor on Saturday, February 8! Sofia's music style is influenced by 1990s country music and Motown. She lived in North Carolina for most of her life before relocating to New England several years ago. She has participated in songwriting programs at the Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum in Nashville and Berklee College of Music in Boston, and she released her debut single at the age of 14. Sofia is currently recording an EP that will be released in the Spring of 2025. Come and enjoy a wonderful night of music with this talented young woman!



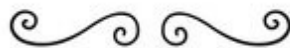
150 PROSPECT is substance-free, open to all. Musicians, singers, poets, dancers and comedians ages 14 and up may perform. Performers play two tunes, up to ten-minute sets. Microphones, amps and a keyboard (piano) are available. There are no restrictions on respectful content. Free homemade soups, chili,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



Listen to Sofia by clicking on the link below, then go to the "Songs" tab.
[Sofia Nunzia Music - Music, Musician, Songwriting, Singer-Songwriter](#)

Click on this link and scroll down to see her music videos:
[Gallery | Sofia Nunzia Music](#)

Click on this link to listen and watch her sing a Dolly Parton song:
[Working 9 to 5 - Dolly Parton karaoke live performance](#)

WORDLY WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

'Word'ly Women's Next Bible Study:

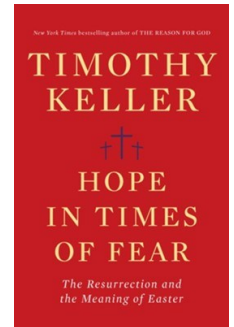
Hope in Times of Fear: The Resurrection and the Meaning of Easter, by Timothy Keller

The Resurrection accounts of Jesus in the Gospels are the most dramatic and impactful stories ever told. One similarity unites each testimony—that none of his most loyal and steadfast followers could "see" it was him, back from the dead. The reason for this is at the very foundation of the Christian faith.

She turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus. (John 20:14)

Hope in the Time of Fear is a book that unlocks the meaning of Jesus's resurrection for readers. Easter is considered the most solemn and important holiday for Christians. It is a time of spiritual rebirth and a time of celebrating the physical rebirth of Jesus after three days in the tomb. For his devoted followers, nothing could prepare them for the moment they met the resurrected Jesus. Each failed to recognize him. All of them physically saw him and yet did not spiritually truly see him. It was only when Jesus reached out and invited them to see who he truly was that their eyes were open. Here the central message of the Christian faith is revealed in a way only Timothy Keller could do it—filled with unshakable belief, piercing insight, and a profound new way to look at a story you think you know. After reading this book, the true meaning of Easter will no longer be unseen

All women of the church are invited to join the 'Word'ly Women's next Bible Study. This is a six-week book study. Each week we will gather to discuss a section of the book. We will meet on six Mondays (starting on March 3, 2025 through April 7, 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 2 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 for this Lenten study!



"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.

SENIOR LADIES OUT TO LUNCH BUNCH



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

February 13 - Saybrook Fish House
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.

SUPPORT CALIFORNIA WILDFIRE SURVIVORS



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](#)

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.

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 2025. Gerry will provide the needed training to all new volunteers. Thank you.

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

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.





CALENDAR

Please note: The information in this calendar is based on the online calendar as of February 6.

SUNDAY, February 9 - Worship Time is 10:30 a.m.

- POSTPONED - UM ARMY Super Bowl Fundraiser
- Sunday School at 9:30 - 10:15 a.m. in various classrooms
- Fifth 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 3:00 - 7:00 p.m. in the Music Room

MONDAY, February 10

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. in 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, February 11

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, February 12

Rental at 6:30 - 9:00 a.m. in the FLC

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

THURSDAY, February 13

Ladies Out to Lunch Bunch at 11:30 - 1:30 p.m.,
Saybrook Fish House

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

Choir Rehearsal at 6:00 p.m. in the Music Room

FRIDAY, February 14

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

SATURDAY, February 15

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

Rental set up at 2:00 p.m.

Rental at 3:00 - 6:00 p.m., FLC

SUNDAY, February 16 - Worship Time is 10:30 a.m.

- Sunday School at 9:30 - 10:15 a.m. in various classrooms
- Sixth 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 3:00 - 7:00 p.m. in the Music Room

A Greater Hartford Parish Black History Month Service and Program at 4:00 - 6:00 p.m. at North United Methodist Church

CELEBRATIONS!

Birthdays (February 9 - 16)

2/10 Paul Richwine

2/13 Anne Skarbek

2/14 Peter Gaulton

2/15 Deborah Draizen

2/15 Karen Rudewicz

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