

# 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 16, 2025

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



## SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY WORSHIP SERVICE AT 10:30 AM

“Blessed Are You???”  
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 and Grace Hayes* will lead the Children's Moment, *Bev Ryan* will read Scripture, the Offertory will be sung by the *Choir* 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=XmVNCu6YKlQfebNzEtnyGh13iSHnVu.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>



# IN THIS WEEK'S CONNECTIONS



From the Pastor.....Page 3

New Article.....Page 4

Black History Month Program.....Page 4

WUMC Black History Month Service.....Page 4

The Coats in Our Narthex Closet.....Page 5

New Member Class.....Page 5

Ash Wednesday Service.....Page 5

Lenten Potluck Dinners.....Page 6

New 8:30 a.m. Service with Communion.....Page 6

Red Cross Blood Drives.....Page 6

POSTPONED - UM ARMY Super Bowl Fundraiser - Page 7

Choir Rehearsal Schedule - Page 7

150 Prospect Open Mic Experience and Coffee House - Page 8

Wordly Women's Bible Study.....Page 9

"Meet for Mahjong" Tuesdays.....Page 9

Senior Ladies Out to Lunch Bunch.....Page 10

Gifts for Loaves and Fishes in Hartford.....Page 10

Support CA Wildfire Survivors.....Page 11

Fellowship Coffee Hour.....Page 12

UM ARMY 2025.....Page 12

Church Calendar, Birthdays and Anniversaries.....Page 13

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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

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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, February 18 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 have weathered the storm without too much difficulty. It appears that more storms are anticipated in the coming weeks. Please stay safe. If anyone is having trouble and needs assistance, please let me know.

As you know, we held our Sunday Worship service on Zoom last Sunday. Please check your email in the morning before coming to church this Sunday to find out if we are having a regular worship service or a Zoom worship service. We want to ensure everyone stays safe. Lindsay will also share the information across different media platforms, such as radio and TV, and Mandy will update our Facebook page.

Finally, please review the calendar and the rest of this *Connections* to see what activities are scheduled for the coming weeks.

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

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### Contact information and office hours for Pastor Marion:

Cell: 203-241-9763

Email: [pastormarion@wethersfieldchurch.org](mailto: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.

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### 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



## NEW ARTICLE

### Munson's Chocolates Easter Fundraiser, February 15 - March 10, 2025

Please consider purchasing Munson's Chocolates for your loved ones this Easter. The items for sale are on a fund raising sheet that Gary is mailing out to members. Please see or contact Gary if you have any questions. In addition, last year we donated 87 Easter Baskets to children in need in the Wethersfield Community, please will you consider donating \$20 toward the purchase of a basket this year? You will help make a child's day and promote the good work of our church and its commitment to God's love. Baskets can also be ordered for your family members.

## BLACK HISTORY MONTH PROGRAM



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

Email: [numc1205@sbcglobal.net](mailto:numc1205@sbcglobal.net)

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

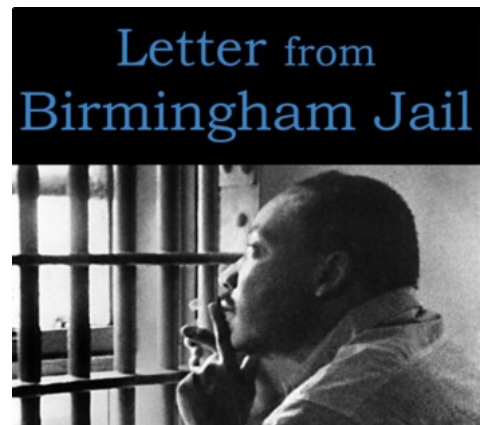
### Greater Hartford Parish Black History Month Program - Sunday, February 16, at 4:00 - 6:00 p.m. at North United Methodist Church

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.

## WUMC BLACK HISTORY MONTH SERVICE

**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."

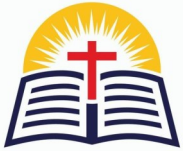


# THE COATS IN OUR NARTHEX CLOSET

## 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.

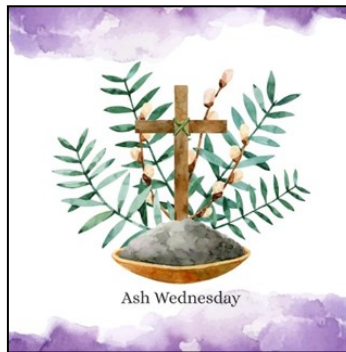
## NEW MEMBERS CLASS



### 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.

## ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE



### Ash Wednesday Service at WUMC

**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**. Please see page 6 for more information about the Lenten Potluck Dinners. We hope you will be able to come.



## LENTEN POTLUCK DINNERS

### Lenten Potluck Dinners

During this year's lenten season, please join us at our **Lenten Potluck Dinners** for a time of fellowship and sharing.

**When:** Our dinners begin on **Ash Wednesday, March 5 from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.** (prior to our Ash Wednesday service) and then **March 12, 19, 26, and April 2 and 9 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.**

**Where:** Old Fellowship Hall

**Details:** Bring a dish of your choice to share. To make cleanup a bit easier, we're asking that people bring their own plates, utensils, napkins and drinks. Water will be provided.

Fellowship will include excerpts from "The Chosen," a first-of-its-kind multi-season TV series on the life of Jesus, as well as craft activities for the children. Invite family and friends and have them share a dish with us as well. For those who might need transportation to and from, there will be a sign-up sheet on the *Community Connections Board*.



## NEW 8:30 AM SERVICE WITH COMMUNION



### 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.

## 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 Sunday, February 9, is POSTPONED.

Please watch your email for updates.

Thank you.



## CHOIR REHEARSAL SCHEDULE

### February

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.

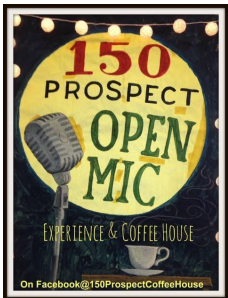
Thursday, 3/27 - TBA



# 150 PROSPECT OPEN MIC EXPERIENCE

**Sofia Nunzia to Anchor on March 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, March 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!



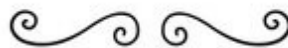
150 PROSPECT is substance-free, open to all. Musicians, singers, poets, dancers and comedians ages 14 and up may perform. Performers play two tunes, up to ten-minute sets. Microphones, amps and a keyboard (piano) are available. There are no restrictions on respectful content. Free homemade soups, chili,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

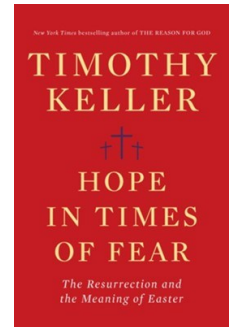
### *Hope in Times of Fear: The Resurrection and the Meaning of Easter,* by Timothy Keller

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

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.*

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## 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.

## 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.



He shall be like a tree  
Planted by the rivers of  
water, That brings  
forth its fruit in its  
season, whose leaf also  
shall not wither; And  
whatever he does shall  
prosper.  
☞ Psalm 1:3





## CALENDAR

**Munson's Chocolates Easter Fundraiser runs from February 15 to March 10. (See article on page 4.)**

**Please note: The information in this calendar is based on the online calendar as of February 12.**

### **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

### **MONDAY, February 17**

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, February 18**

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 at 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary

### **WEDNESDAY, February 19**

Rental at 6:30 - 9:00 a.m. in the FLC  
Rental at 4:00 - 8:00 p.m. in the FLC and Kitchen  
Education Meeting at 6:30 p.m. by Zoom

### **THURSDAY, February 20**

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

### **FRIDAY, February 21**

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 7:00 - 11:00 p.m. in the Music Room

### **SUNDAY, February 23 - Worship Time is 10:30 a.m.**

- **Sunday School at 9:30 - 10:15 a.m. in various classrooms**
- **Black History Month Service, in the Sanctuary and by Zoom at 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.**
- **Fellowship Hour at 11:30 - 12:30 p.m., FLC**
- **New Member Class at 12:00 p.m. in the Fireside Room**

Rental at 3:00 - 7:00 p.m. in the Music Room

## CELEBRATIONS!

### **Birthdays (February 16 - 23)**

2/22 George Cote

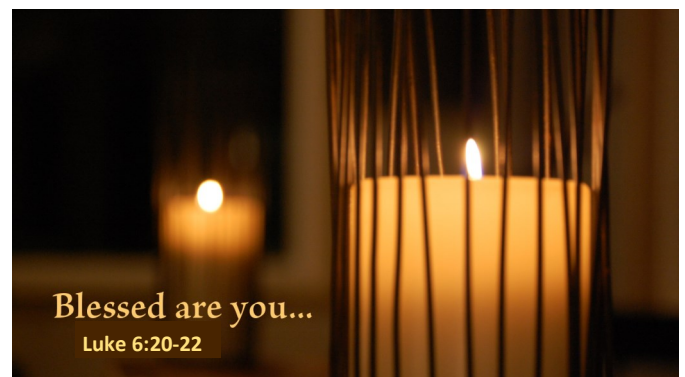
2/22 Tim Warweg

2/23 Nicole Strickland

### **Anniversary (February 16 - 23)**

2/22 Evelyn and Richard Griswold

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