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 23, 2025

Wethersfield
United Methodist Church

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

BLACK HISTORY MONTH SERVICE AT 10:30 AM

SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

"Love Your Enemies"
Sermon by Rev. Marion Hubbard



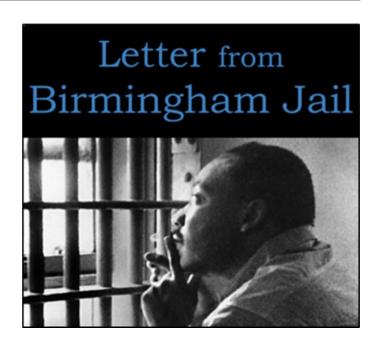
Please join us for an in-person Worship Service, led by Rev. Marion Hubbard, in the Sanctuary at church and on Zoom!

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, Doug Weed will read Scripture, William Weiner and Mike Gowdy will play the Offertory Hymn by two-handed piano 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/u/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 25 at 9:00 a.m. is the deadline for the next issue of *Connections*. Thank you.

FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Friends in Christ,

I'm praying that the snow will be gone for a while. I am told this coming weekend will be like a heat wave, with temperatures rising to 40 degrees. I want us to be back in church for Sunday worship. I look forward to seeing all of you in the sanctuary. I miss your smiling faces.

This Sunday promises to be filled with wonderful things. I will be preaching on Luke 6:27-38, and the sermon title is "Love Your Enemies." This message is perfectly timed for this week's celebration of Black History Month. I will speak on behalf of a remarkable American—author, professor, and religious civil rights leader, Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.—specifically discussing his letter from Birmingham Jail, which he wrote while incarcerated on Good Friday, April 16, 1963, over the course of eight days. I hope you can join us for this event.

Additionally, this Sunday at 4:00 p.m., our Greater Hartford Cooperative Parish Black History Month Celebration will be held at the North United Methodist Church in Hartford, CT. I hope you'll join us for a fantastic event featuring live music, singing, sacred dance performances, and inspiring preaching by Rev. Jacqueline Carter from the Union United Methodist Church. Refreshments will be served after the service.

Regarding our New Members class, it will begin this Sunday in the Fireside Room at noon. Anyone interested in learning more about our church or considering joining us is welcome to join. I look forward to discussing our church and our mission with you. However, due to snow cancellations from the sanctuary over the past two weeks, we will be rescheduling the final communion study group for a later date.

Please check the calendar page to see what else is coming up that you might want to join.

Remember 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



EASTER PLANT ORDER FORM

____Tulip: \$10.00 each

We are now accepting orders for Easter plants! The plants will be put around the altar on Easter Sunday. After worship on Easter Sunday, you may take the plant home with you.

Here are the choices: ____Lily: \$11.50 each

Daffodil: \$10.00 eachHyacinth: \$10.00 each
Each pot will be wrapped in foil. The deadline for ordering will be Monday, March 24. Please note: The florist will not guarantee any order they receive after March 24.
Here is how you can submit your order: Order forms can be found in Connections, in the church narthex, on the "Community Connections Board" and on the table outside the church office. Please put your completed order form, along with your payment (checks made payable to WUMC, with "Easter Plants" on the memo line), in an envelope and leave in the church office on Karen's desk, in her mailbox, or in the outside drop box. For your convenience, you can simply send Karen, Office Administrator, an email with your order in it and she will work with you to fill it out. Thank you. Your Name:
Phone:
In Memory of:
In Honor of:

NEW ARTICLES

Cooperative Parish Prayer Breakfast at Wethersfield UMC

Please join us on March 29, at 9:00 - 11:00 a.m. for a special program and refreshments. Watch future issues of *Connections* for more information!



BLACK HISTORY MONTH PROGRAM



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

Email: numc1205@sbcglobal.net Phone Number: (860) 525-0573 Greater Hartford Parish Black History Month Program - Sunday, February 23, at 4:00 - 6:00 p.m. at North United Methodist Church

Join us for a Black History Month Celebration on Sunday, February 23 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.

Please see page 13 for more information. Thank you.

MUNSON'S CHOCOLATES EASTER FUNDRAISER

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

Please consider purchasing Munson's Chocolates for your loved ones this Easter. Please click on this link to order: https://www.munsonschocolates.com/online-fundraising/wethersfield-united-methodist-churchct-4/. 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.

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 to our church on the corner of 150 Prospect Street and Dick Dobmeier Lane. 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.





Daylight Saving Time Begins on Sunday, March 9, 2025

Please remember to set your clocks ahead one hour before you go to bed on Saturday (March 8). Spring ahead!

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 March 22, 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, 2/20 - 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

March (continued)

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

SUPPORT CALIFORNIA WILDFIRE SURVIVORS





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

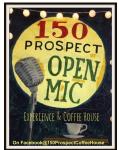
150 PROSPECT OPEN MIC EXPERIENCE

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.

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, or tanjam265@gmail.com



Listen to Sofia by clicking on the link below, then go to the "Songs" tab.

<u>Sofia Nunzia Music - Music, Musician, Songwriting, Singer-Songwriter</u>

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

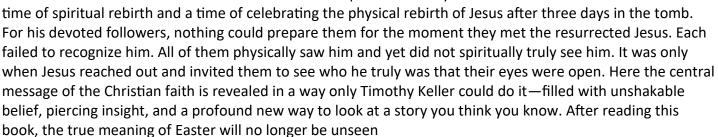
'Word'ly Women's Next Bible Study:

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 rehirth and a time of solehrating the physical rehirth of Jesus after three days



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.

TIMOTHY

KELLER

HOPE

OF FEAR

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.

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
Last names starting with A-C
Last names starting with D-I
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.

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

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.

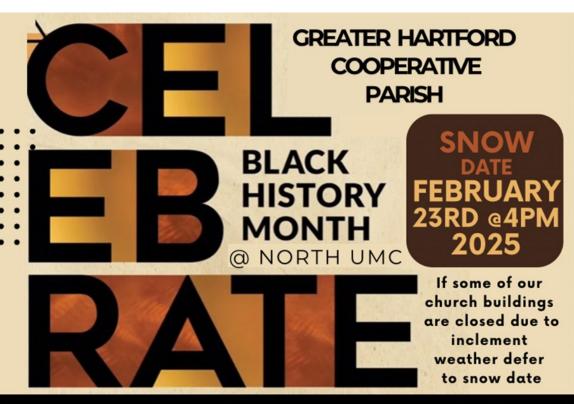
We recognize that God calls us to different ministries and commitments. We will respect and support our church staff and all who accept office or commit themselves to the service of this church. When conflict or disagreement

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



SUNDAY FEBRUARY 23, 2025 AT 4PM





CONGREGATIONS

BLOOMFIELD UMC

HARTFORD KOREAN UMC
NEWINGTON UMC
WEST HARTFORD UMC
NORTH-HARTFORD UMC
ROCKY HILL UMC
TRINITY-WINDSOR UMC
UMC OF HARTFORD
WETHERSFIELD UMC

ALL ARE WELCOME

GUEST SPEAKER

REV. JACQUELINE CARTER
UNION UNITED METHODIST
CHURCJH

RECEPTION

FELLOWSHIP & APPETIZERS TO FOLLOW

LOCATION

1205 Albany Ave. Hartford CT 06112



CALENDAR

Munson's Chocolates Easter Fundraiser runs from February 15 to March 10. (See article on page 5.)

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

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 a.m. 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

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

MONDAY, February 24

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 25

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 Worship Ministry Meeting at 6:30 p.m. by Zoom

WEDNESDAY, February 26

Rental at 6:30 - 9:00 a.m. in the FLC 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, February 27

Congregational Care Ministry at 10:00 a.m. in the Fireside Room
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 28

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, March 1

Rental at 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. in the FLC

SUNDAY, March 2 - Worship Time is 10:30 a.m.

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

CELEBRATIONS!

Birthdays (February 23 - March 2)

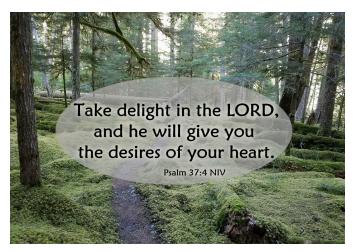
2/23 Nicole Strickland

2/25 Tanja Moriarty

2/27 Tanner Bradbury

3/2 Lois Sweeney

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