

# 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.

March 2, 2025

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



## TRANSFIGURATION SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE WITH COMMUNION AT 10:30 AM



**“My Momma said: There’ll be days like this.”** | 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, *Bev Ryan* will read Scripture, the *Choir* will sing after the Children's Moment and *Jan Ironside* will lead Joys and Concerns.

**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.

**Following the service, please join us for Fellowship Hour.**

### Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83972112794?pwd=XmVNCu6YKIQfebNzEtnyGhI3iSHnVu.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

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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, March 4 at 9:00 a.m.** is the deadline for the next issue of *Connections*. Thank you.

## FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Friends in Christ,

Wow, so much is going on around here. Please read the calendar page. You won't want to miss anything. Remember, Wednesday, March 5, is Ash Wednesday. We will worship together with Rocky Hill and Newington UMC churches at 7:00 p.m. in our Sanctuary.

Also, at noon, we will be giving out ashes in our parking lot for those who can't make the 7:00 p.m. service. Also, don't forget our 8:30 a.m. half-hour worship service with communion will be on Sunday, March 9. Feel free to attend either one or both. May God bless you this Lent, so that it be a special time for you.

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

God Bless all of you,

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





## **Turkey Dinner**

**Saturday, March 15, 2025  
at WUMC at 4:30 - 6:30 p.m.**

**Roast Turkey/Gravy, Mashed Potatoes, Stuffing,  
Mixed Vegetables Cranberry, Coffee and Tea,  
Cake for Dessert**

**Dine-in or takeout only**

**Walk-ins subject to availability**

**\$15.00 per person**

**For dine-in or take-out reservations, call or text  
Karen Lewis, 860-798-9927**

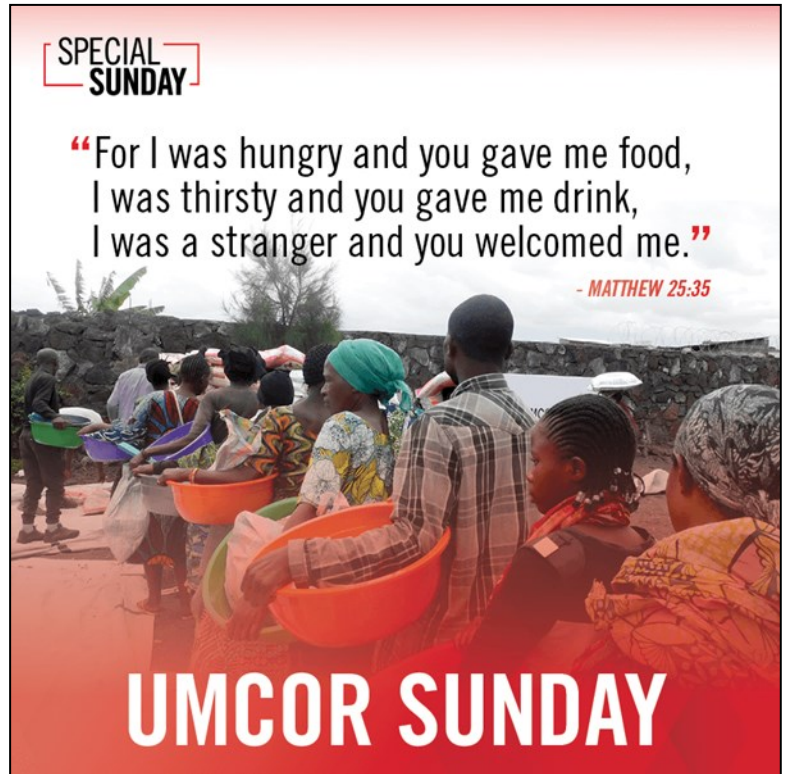
## NEW ARTICLES

### Celebrate UMCOR Sunday on March 30, 2025!

UMCOR Sunday is one of The United Methodist Church's Special Sundays.

Gifts given on UMCOR Sunday strengthen the church's global humanitarian response by underwriting UMCOR's administrative costs. This allows UMCOR to use 100% of additional funds for specific programs like **U.S. disaster response, international disaster response, and global migration.**

If you write a check, please include United Methodist UMCOR Sunday in the note section of your check.



The United Methodist Churches of Rocky Hill, Newington and Wethersfield invite you to:

A Maundy Thursday Service on **April 17 at 7:00 p.m.**, at Rocky Hill United Methodist Church, on 623 Old Main Street. Pastor Marion will preach at this service.

A Good Friday Service on **April 18 at 7:00 p.m.** at Newington United Methodist Church, on 401 New Britain Avenue. The service will be Tenebrae, so there will be readings and no preaching that evening.

## FELLOWSHIP COFFEE HOUR

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

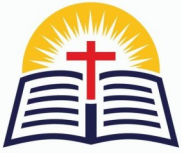
**From Betty:** I am asking for goodies as follows:

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

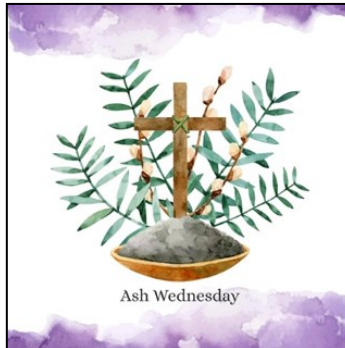
Many thanks to all who contribute goodies for Coffee Hour.

## NEW MEMBERS CLASS



If you are interested in joining our Church family, please let Pastor Marion know. The New Member Classes are 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. There will be a distribution of ashes and Holy Communion.

**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 into the parking lot of the church and Pastor Marion will come to you, 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. **On this Wednesday, there will be no children's activities.** Please see page 7 for all the details about this dinner. 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

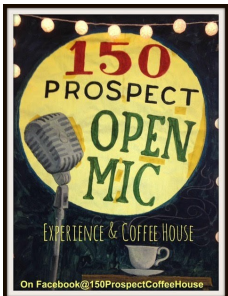
Gerry and I enjoy facilitating Red Cross Blood Drives. We would appreciate having a few other church members to serve as backup if we are unable to be present for any unexpected reason. It involves unlocking the room at 7:00 a.m. and setting up tables and chairs, and taking them down and securing the 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*

# 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](#)



## 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.

## SENIOR LADIES OUT TO LUNCH BUNCH



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

March 13 - New York Pickle Deli, Rocky Hill

April 10 - Wood-n-Tap, Rocky Hill

May 8 - Salute, Rocky Hill

June 12 - Maggie McFly's, Glastonbury

## PRAYER BREAKFAST AT WUMC

### 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!



This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

*Psalm 118:24*

# EASTER PLANT ORDER FORM



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                      \_\_\_\_\_ Tulip: \$10.00 each  
                                 \_\_\_\_\_ Daffodil: \$10.00 each                      \_\_\_\_\_ Hyacinth: \$10.00 each

Each plant will be wrapped in a pot cover. **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: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Please check here if payment is enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

## 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

### 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

## 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](#)

## WORDLY WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

### 'Word'ly Women's Next Bible Study:

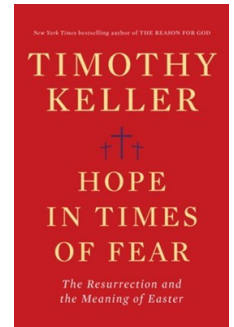
#### *Hope in Times of Fear: The Resurrection and the Meaning of Easter,* by Timothy Keller

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.

# CALENDAR

**Munson's Chocolates Easter Fundraiser runs from February 15 to March 10. (See article on page 9.)**

**Please note: The information in this calendar is based on the online calendar as of February 27.**

## **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 Members Class at 12:00 p.m. in the Fireside Room**

## **MONDAY, March 3**

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, March 4**

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  
Mission Meeting at 6:30 p.m. by Zoom

## **WEDNESDAY, March 5 - Ash Wednesday**

Rental at 6:30 - 9:00 a.m. in the FLC  
Ash Wednesday - Distribution of Ashes at  
12:00 - 1:00 p.m. in the church parking lot  
Rental at 4:00 - 8:00 p.m. in the FLC and Kitchen  
Lenten Potluck Dinner at 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. in  
in Old Fellowship Hall  
Ash Wednesday Service with Newington UMC and  
Rocky Hill UMC at 7:00 p.m. at  
Wethersfield UMC

## **THURSDAY, March 6**

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

## **FRIDAY, March 7**

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 8**

150 Prospect setup (all day)  
150 Prospect Open Mic Experience and Coffee House  
at 6:00 - 10:00 p.m. in the FLC and Kitchen

**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!**

## **SUNDAY, March 9**

- **(NEW) First Sunday in Lent Worship Service with Communion, in the Sanctuary at 8:30 - 9:00 a.m.**
- **Sunday School at 9:30 - 10:15 a.m. in various classrooms**
- **First Sunday in Lent Worship 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 Members Class at 12:00 p.m. in the Fireside Room**

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# CELEBRATIONS!

## **Birthdays (March 2 - 9)**

3/2 Lois Sweeney  
3/4 Lindsay Appel  
3/6 Ken Barse  
3/7 Allison Weed

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