## 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 23, 2025

Wethersfield United Methodist Church

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



"Repent before it is too late."
Sermon by Rev. Dr. Marion Hubbard

### Please join us for an in-person Worship Service at 10:30 a.m., led by Rev. Dr. 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, Beth Warweg will lead the Children's Moment, Gary Schaffrick will lead the Lenten Prayer Moment, Colin Armour will read Scripture, Suzanne Neafus will play a bell solo during the Offertory and Jan Ironside will lead Joys and Concerns.

Following the service, please join us for Fellowship Hour.

## THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT WORSHIP SERVICE AT 10:30 AM

Every Sunday, we have an 8:30 a.m. Service of Communion in the sanctuary with Rev. Dr. Marion Hubbard. Please see page 10 for more information.

### **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: <a href="https://us06web.zoom.us/">https://us06web.zoom.us/</a>

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, March 25 at 9:00 a.m.** is the deadline for the next issue of *Connections*. Thank you.

### FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Friends in Christ,

Where is the timing going? We will be in April very shortly. So much is happening at our church that makes the time go by so fast. Every Wednesday we have our potluck dinner and a wonderful time to share a meal with our church family and watch a superb video on Jesus after dinner. If you have yet to join us, why not come next Wednesday? I know you will have a great time.

On March 29, we are holding a prayer breakfast for the Greater Hartford Cooperative Parish at 9:00 a.m. in our Family Life Center (FLC), please make every effort to join us. It will be an inspiring time of prayer and a hymn sing. Please join us.

And for this Sunday, I am preaching on Luke 13:1-9, Repent before it is too late. Hope you can join us for either the 8:30 a.m. service or the 10:30 a.m. service.

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

God Bless all of you, Pastor Marion

## Contact information and office hours for Pastor Marion:

Cell: 203-241-9763

Email: pastormarion@wethersfieldchurch.org

Office Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday

from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Days off: Friday, Saturday and Monday

Please call first before coming to see Pastor Marion, to make sure she is not on an emergency call someplace else.

Thank you.

## **Congregational Covenant Wethersfield UMC 2022**

We covenant together to create a community that supports one another, celebrates one another, and recognizes that each of us seeks to find in the body of Christ a place of safety, affirmation, and joy. Our communication will be guided by the biblical admonition to "speak the truth in love" (Ephesians 4:15), which means that we will express our convictions and feelings honestly, but also with sensitivity to the concerns of others.

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

arises, we will address each other directly. We will speak with people, not about people. If direct conversation does not resolve a conflict, we will seek God's guidance and appropriate help whenever we find our own wisdom inadequate. We may not always come to an agreement, but we will respect the decision of the majority and strive to maintain unity in the spirit of Christian Love.

We covenant to pray together to sustain and deepen our love relationship with God, whom we cannot love without loving one another (John 13:34-35, 1 John 4:20-21). We affirm this covenant, trusting in God's power to enable us to live it with courage, love, and compassion.

God be with you all,

**Pastor Marion** 



We are saddened by the news of Dot Smith's passing. Dot passed away on March 17, 2025. Please pray for her family.

### NEW ARTICLES

### Betty is collecting items for *Journey Home*

I will be collecting the following items for *Journey* Home that works to support those people who are currently transitioning from homelessness to housing by connecting them to donations of household goods and furniture. Their clients have nothing but what they can carry on their back. A box will be placed on the table outside of the office.

- Floor Lamps
- Pillows
- Trash Cans
- Paper Towels

- Toilet Paper
- Dish Soap
- Laundry Baskets

At the present time they are working with 70 clients.

Thank you.

**Betty Gaulton** 



### Here's the registration link for the UM Army mixed aged camp

Please see the link below for another opportunity to participate in UM Army - the mixed aged camp (you have to have completed 6th grade) - Sunday July 13th thru Saturday, July 19th in Shelton, CT. They are asking that we register as soon as possible so they can start planning for camps. Gina Grubbs will be doing programs so this will be a great camp! Please let me know if you are holding off due to a potential conflict or for some other reason. We have had very generous donations toward scholarships so please don't let finances be the HLOOP TO NOISSIW L reason you don't join us.

Individual Registration Link: https://www.umarmy.net/Registration/Indv/4704/

Please see pages 8-9 for more UM Army news!

### FELLOWSHIP COFFEE HOUR

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

From Betty: I am asking for goodies as follows:

Last names starting with A-C First Sunday 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.



### EASTER EGG HUNT

### **Easter Egg Hunt**

We will be having an egg hunt for kids 10 and under immediately **after the 10:30 a.m. service on Easter Sunday.** It will be outside if the weather is good or else in Fellowship Hall. Meet us right after church in the hallway outside Fellowship Hall. All little kids are welcome!! If you are visiting for the first time, just follow the kids leaving the service to find us.



### NEW MEMBER CLASSES



If you are interested in joining our Church family, please let Pastor Marion know. A New Member Class will be held on **April 13**, at **12:00 noon**, in the Fireside Room.

### PRAYER BREAKFAST AT WUMC

**Greater Hartford 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. Please see page 13 for more information.



### SENIOR LADIES OUT TO LUNCH BUNCH



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

April 10 - Wood-n-Tap, Rocky Hill

May 8 - Salute, Rocky Hill

June 12 - Maggie McFly's, Glastonbury

### NEW CONNECTICUT DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT

### New York Annual Conference Resident Bishop Thomas J. Bickerton Appoints Rev. Heather A.M. Sinclair as Incoming Connecticut District Superintendent



**New York, March 3, 2025:** New York Annual Conference **Resident Bishop Thomas J. Bickerton** is pleased to announce the appointment of the **Rev. Heather A.M. Sinclair** as Connecticut District Superintendent, effective July 1, 2025.

"Heather's deep commitment to her calling and to the church is undeniable," Bishop Bickerton said, adding, "she brings a depth of experience and enthusiasm to this work. It will be a great joy to not only welcome her to our Cabinet table but to also watch her live into the various aspects of this new work."

Rev. Sinclair has served at Westport and Weston UMC since 2018. Her previous appointments were at Trumbull: Nichols UMC (2003-2006); Shelton First UMC (2006-2013), and Greenwich First UMC (2013-2018). She has served as the chair of the Connecticut District Committee on Ministry from 2010-2013; served on the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry from 2014-2024; co-chaired the Annual Conference Worship Team from 2014-2021; and has been Parish Coordinator of the Southern Fairfield and Fairchester Cooperative Parishes.

For Rev. Sinclair, the appointment, like several other aspects of her journey, was not what she envisioned for her future. When the Bishop's call came, Rev. Sinclair was en route to a vacation in Florida with her husband Edward (who goes by Skip) and their daughters, Grace, 16, and Sophia, 14. Fortunately, going on vacation allowed for a time of deep discernment.

She recounts how prayer, conversations with her husband, and one of her favorite scriptures (Jeremiah 29:11: For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope) were a part of her decision making. Rev. Sinclair had an additional phone conversation with Bishop Bickerton when she returned home and accepted the appointment. "It just felt right," she recalls.

### **Living Into God's Plans**

Rev. Sinclair's story begins outside of Boston, where she attended the UMC of Westford as a child. Her parents (Jo Anne and the late Craig McClendon) were "quiet leaders" in the church, and Heather was a leader in the youth group. At no time in those early years did Heather feel a call to enter the ministry, but God was always an integral part of her life, although she dreamed of becoming a marine biologist.

In the early days of her undergraduate degree at Colgate University, Rev. Sinclair remembers how her roommates suggested attending worship at the church on campus. They participated in the service as a group—but Heather was the only one that kept going back. "It was a great community, and I wanted to be there," she recalls. In her first year as an undergraduate, the plan was to continue working toward a career in science. Until, in sophomore year, an organic chemistry class prompted a change of heart. "God was giving me a little nudge—like, wrong direction," Rev. Sinclair laughs.

(Continued on next page)

### NEW CONNECTICUT DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT

### (Article continued from previous page)

At the same time, Rev. Sinclair was getting more entrenched in campus ministry and taking world religion classes where she could explore spirituality and religions outside of her Methodist context. The chaplain (also her mentor) saw a call for this work, and slowly, the path leading to a life serving God began to unfold. "It was just kind of a step-by-step thing that made sense and felt right," Rev. Sinclair said. "I met my husband at Colgate too. Between a call to ministry and a husband, it worked out well."

Rev. Sinclair graduated from Colgate in 1997 with a Bachelor of Arts in Religion and spent a year with the Jesuit Volunteer Corps where she helped with the Hartford area food bank and soup kitchen. This experience opened her eyes to the hunger in Hartford and beyond. As she worked connecting churches and schools and doing food drives, she saw ways the community could support mission and ministry.

She also served as Youth Minister in Avon Memorial UMC from 1998-2002, the church that she fondly says helped solidify her call in the United Methodist Church and voted on her candidacy.

Rev. Sinclair opted to attend Yale Divinity School because the ecumenical environment allowed her, once again, to learn about various denominations and the way that other people practice their faith. She earned her MDiv in 2003.

### Cooperative and Collaborative Leadership

Rev. Sinclair describes her leadership style as cooperative and collaborative and extols the virtue of teamwork, embracing a diversity of ideas and thought, and brainstorming ideas to work out what the best path forward is for everyone. As a result, she confides that the recent "Stronger Together" Annual Conference theme and the Annual Conference focus on cooperative parish ministry resonates deeply with how she approaches ministry. "My goal is to continue to find ways to be more collaborative as the body of Christ while recognizing that we're very diverse and yet, we have unity of purpose."

According to Rev. Sinclair, one challenge facing those in ministry today in the Connecticut District and beyond is making the church and its message relevant for the current time when so many people desperately need a message of hope.

"The world needs the message of Jesus that we have. The world needs hope and needs some direction," Rev. Sinclair explains. "I think the United Methodist Church has a great gift and a message of justice, hope, and unity that we that we can offer. It's our best-kept secret; one I pray we will do more to bring to those who need to be inspired and strengthened."

### CHOIR REHEARSAL SCHEDULE

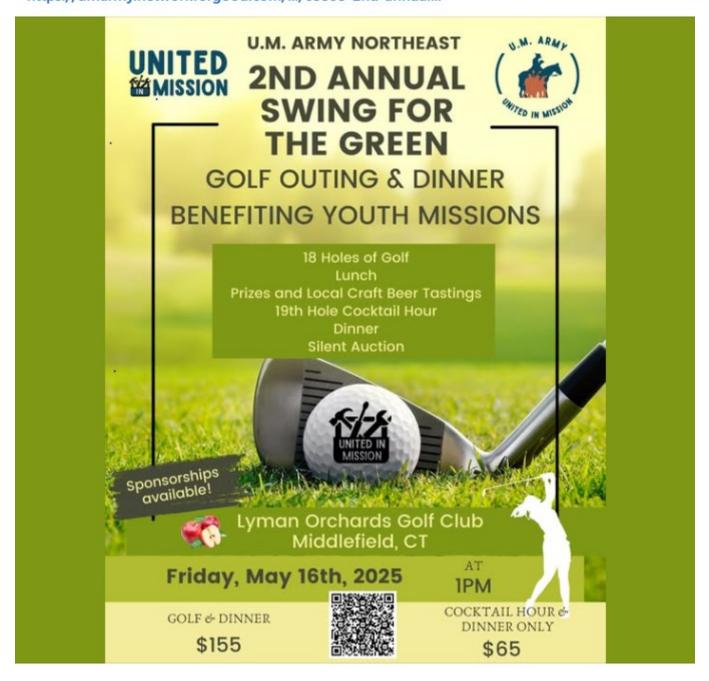
Thursday, March 20 - Bell Choir Rehearsal at 6:00 - 6:50 p.m. Thursday, March 20 - Chancel Choir Rehearsal at 6:50 - 8:00 p.m.

Thursday, March 27 - Bell Choir Rehearsal at 6:00 - 6:50 p.m. Thursday, March 27 - Chancel Choir Rehearsal at 6:45 - 8:00 p.m.

### UM ARMY GOLF TOURNAMENT FUNDRAISER

For anyone in the Congregation - youth and young at heart. Please see below for a few UM Army opportunities - the annual golf tournament and a young adult camp in May. There will be information soon on registration for the July 13 - 19 camp. Please let Judy Dowd know if you have any interest in any of these opportunities.

Registration is open for U.M. ARMY Northeast's 2nd Annual Swing for the Green! Details are below. Come out and support youth mission. Don't golf? Support us by sponsoring our event or joining us for our cocktail hour and dinner. Click this link to sign up: <a href="https://umarmy.networkforgood.com/.../83595-2nd-annual...">https://umarmy.networkforgood.com/.../83595-2nd-annual...</a>



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### UM ARMY DISASTER RECOVERY MISSION TRIP

(Continued from previous page)

You've known us as a youth mission organization, helping homeowners in need of home repair. Now U.M. ARMY is joining in and helping our friends in Vermont repair and rebuild after extensive flooding. We are offering a Disaster Recovery Mission Trip for participants 18+. Go to umarmy.org to register your group or use the individual registration link here:

https://www.umarmy.net/Registration/Single/Northeast/

# UNITED IN MISSION ADULT MISSION DISASTER RECOVERY TRIP

U.M. ARMY IS COORDINATING A DISASTER RECOVERY MISSION TRIP TO VERMONT!!

JOIN US FOR A WEEK OF REPAIR AND REBUILD FOR OUR FRIENDS IN THE NEW ENGLAND CONFERENCE.

MAY 25-31, 2025
CABOT, VERMONT
THE TEAM WILL BE STAYING AT THE COVENANT HILLS
CAMPGROUND IN CABOT, VERMONT

CONTACT GINAGRUBBS@UMARMY.ORG OR

TO REGISTER YOUR GROUP, GO TO: UMARMY.ORG

TO REGISTER INDIVIDUALLY GO TO: HTTPS://WWW.UMARMY.NET/REGISTRATION/SINGLE/NORTHEAST/

COST PER PARTICIPANT IS \$325 AND INCLUDES:

ROOM AND BOARD - BED
ON-SITE SHOWERS
ALL FOOD
12 WORSHIP SERVICES/DEVOTIONS
PRAYER JOURNEY
T-SHIRT
INSURANCE
TRIP COORDINATION
ALL PROJECT FUNDS

### 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 will be held on March 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 - 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

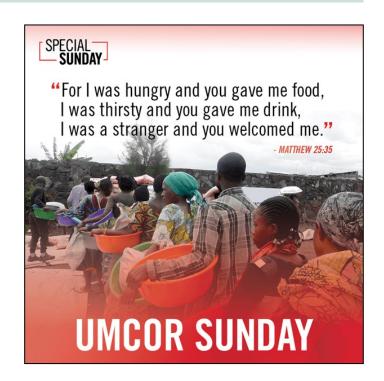
### UMCOR SUNDAY ON MARCH 30

### 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.



### "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.

### MAUNDY THURSDAY AND GOOD FRIDAY

## 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.



### EASTER PLANT ORDER FORM



	·	lants will be put around the altar on nay 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
·	•	ne for ordering will be Monday, e any order they receive after March 24
church narthex, on the office. Please put your to WUMC, with "Easter office on Karen's desk,	"Community Connections Boa completed order form, along w r Plants" on the memo line), in in her mailbox, or in the outsid Office Administrator, an email	s can be found in Connections, in the ard" and on the table outside the church with your payment (checks made payable an envelope and leave in the church de drop box. For your convenience, you with your order in it and she will work
Your Name:		
		Phone:
In Memory of:		
In Honor of:		

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

## Greater Hartford Cooperative Parish Prayer Breakfast

Saturday, March 29, 9:00 a.m.

Wethersfield United Methodist Church

150 Prospect Street, Wethersfield, CT 06109

## **Greater Hartford Cooperative Congregations:**

- Bloomfield
- Hartford Korean
- Newington
- North—Hartford
- Rocky Hill
- Trinity—Windsor
- UMC of Hartford
- West Hartford UMC
- Wethersfield





### CALENDAR

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

### SUNDAY, March 23

- (NEW) Third 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
- Third 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

### MONDAY, March 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., 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, March 25**

Morning Prayer at 10:00 a.m. in the Fireside Room Meet for Mahjong at 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. in Old Fellowship Hall

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

Rental at 6:20 - 8:20 p.m. in Old Fellowship Hall

Rental at 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. in Old Fellowship Hall Worship Ministry Meeting at 6:30 p.m. by Zoom

#### WEDNESDAY, March 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 Lenten Potluck Dinner at 5:30 - 7:00 p.m. in Old Fellowship Hall SPPRC Meeting at 7:00 p.m. in the Fireside Room

### THURSDAY, March 27

in the Music Room

Congregational Care Meeting at 10:00 - 11:00 a.m. in the Fireside Room

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

Bell Choir Rehearsal at 6:00 - 6:50 p.m.,

Old Fellowship Hall

Chancel Choir Rehearsal at 6:45 - 8:00 p.m.

### FRIDAY, March 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 29

Cooperative Parish Lenten Prayer Breakfast at 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. in the FLC and Kitchen

### SUNDAY, March 30 - UMCOR Sunday

- (NEW) Fourth 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
- Fourth 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

Rental at 3:00 - 5:00 p.m. in the FLC

### CELEBRATIONS!

### Birthdays (March 23 - 31)

3/23 Girard Hayes

3/27 Stephanie Maynard

3/28 J.R. Dowd

3/31 Nancy Storms

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