

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.

May 4, 2025

Wethersfield
United Methodist Church

150 Prospect Street
Wethersfield, CT 06109
860-529-2025

info@wethersfieldchurch.org
www.wethersfieldchurch.org

"Life Changing Event"

Sermon by Rev. Dr. Marion Hubbard



THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER WORSHIP SERVICE WITH COMMUNION AT 10:30 A.M.

NATIVE AMERICAN MINISTRIES SUNDAY

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.

There will be an 8:30 a.m. Service of Communion, in the sanctuary, with Rev. Dr. Marion Hubbard on May 4.

Please see page 5 for more information.

Please join us for an in-person Worship Service with Communion, 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, *Rev. Dr. Marion Hubbard* will lead the Children's Moment, *Jan Ironside* will lead Joys and Concerns, *Gary Schaffrick* will read Scripture and the *Choir* will sing before the Invitation to the Table.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83972112794?pwd=XmVNCu6YKlQfebNzEtnyGhl3iSHnVu.1>

Meeting ID: 839 7211 2794

Passcode: 150150

One tap mobile

+16469313860,,83972112794#,,,,*150150# US

+19292056099,,83972112794#,,,,*150150# US

(New York)

Dial by your location

• +1 646 931 3860 US

• +1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

• +1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

• +1 305 224 1968 US

• +1 309 205 3325 US

• +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

• +1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

Find your local number:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/kcL9wQYL8i>

Following the service, please join us for Fellowship Hour.

IN THIS WEEK'S CONNECTIONS



From the Pastor.....	Page 3
The Office Administrator's Office Hours.....	Page 3
New Article.....	Page 3
AED Training at WUMC.....	Page 4
Native American Ministries Sunday.....	Page 4
Amrein Scholarships.....	Page 4
Spotlight on Missions.....	Page 5
Senior Ladies Out to Lunch Bunch.....	Page 5
New 8:30 a.m. Service with Communion.....	Page 5
"Meet for Mahjong" Tuesdays.....	Page 5
150 Prospect Open Mic Experience and Coffee House.....	Page 6
Our New Pastor, Rev. Joshua Swanson.....	Page 7
Rev. Dr. Marion Hubbard to Offer Prayers.....	Page 7
Red Cross Blood Drives.....	Page 7
Wordly Women Bible Study.....	Page 8
Spring Fellowship Luncheon.....	Page 8
WUMC Congregational Covenant.....	Page 9
Registration link for UM Army mixed age camp.....	Page 9
Fellowship Coffee Hour.....	Page 9
UM ARMY Golf Tournament Fundraiser.....	Page 10
UM ARMY Disaster Recovery Mission Trip.....	Page 11
Church Calendar, Birthdays and Anniversaries.....	Page 12

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, May 6 at 9:00 a.m. is the deadline for the next issue of *Connections*. Thank you.

FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Friends in Christ,

Thank you for allowing me this time off. Florida has been wonderful. I got out walking and even went to the beach. I had a wonderful visit with my brother and his wife. I am looking forward to seeing all of you on Sunday. I do hope you can make it to the District meeting on Saturday at North UMC.

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.



District Conference Day, Saturday, May 3, 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. at North UMC.

THE OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR'S OFFICE HOURS

Karen, the Office Administrator for WUMC, has the following office hours:

Mondays: 9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Wednesdays: 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Thursdays: 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Days off: Saturday and Sunday

NEW ARTICLE

Roll Call! Let's get HEALTHY!!

We are inquiring if anyone is interested in a walking group, which will be open to all. We would meet once a week, weather permitting. If interested, please email Deb Draizen or call Chasity Fuggetta 860-256-5188.



AED TRAINING AT WUMC

AED Training by Wethersfield EMS, May 4 at 2:00 - 2:45 p.m.

On Sunday, May 4, members of Wethersfield Emergency Medical Services will present basic training on the use of an AED. Thanks to Andrew Ivanick, last year the church acquired an AED, a medical device which can potentially save the life of a church member or visitor. The training/presentation will last about 40 minutes and Wethersfield EMS will bring mannequins, training AEDs and staff at no charge.

Where: Old Fellowship Hall

When: 2:00 - 2:45 p.m.

Who: Everyone

NATIVE AMERICAN MINISTRIES SUNDAY

Native American Ministries Special Sunday, May 4

United Methodists are called to recognize and honor the gifts and contributions made by Native Americans to our society and church. The United Methodist Church acknowledges a gap in understanding Native American life and culture, while affirming the sacredness of Indigenous peoples, their languages, their unique identities and their contributions to the church and the world.



Contributions help develop and strengthen Native American ministries within each United Methodist annual conference and provide scholarships for Native Americans pursuing ordained or licensed ministry.

Last year, almost \$240,000 was raised to support vital ministries through the Native American Ministries offering.

If you write a check, please include Native American Ministries in the note section of your check. Thank you.

AMREIN SCHOLARSHIPS



Amrein Scholarship applications are due by May 23

This WUMC scholarship was established in 1976 in memory of Rev Arthur Amrein. He was our only pastor to serve this congregation in both our original Main Street church and this present church building. Information about eligibility and application forms are available in the Cool Jude Youth Room and at the Community Connections Board in the hallway to the Family Life Center. **Completed applications need to be in Grace Hayes' church office mail box by May 23.** Scholarship awards will be presented during worship on Children and Youth Sunday on June 8. Please call Grace Hayes with any questions.

SPOTLIGHT ON MISSIONS



spotlight on MISSIONS

There will be a "Spotlight on Mission" brainstorming meeting on May 4, 2025 at 12:00 noon in the Cool Jude Youth Room....a light lunch will be served. It is time to look at the mission activities of our church to answer some questions. Which mission ministries are working and which are not? What are our

strengths and weaknesses with mission? What are the new opportunities for mission that have surfaced with the "changing" times? Are our missions relevant? What are the missions dearest to YOUR heart....that you want to see embraced at WUMC? Everyone is encouraged to come and participate in this discussion....we want to figuratively "take the pulse" of the congregation. We ask that you sign up on the *Community Connections Board* to let us know that you are going to attend, so that we can prepare enough food.

WUMC Mission Committee

SENIOR LADIES OUT TO LUNCH BUNCH



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

May 8 at 11:30 a.m. - Salute, Rocky Hill

June 12 at 11:30 a.m. - Maggie McFly's, Glastonbury

NEW 8:30 AM SERVICE WITH COMMUNION

New - An 8:30 - 9:00 a.m. Worship Service with Communion on Sundays

The 8:30 a.m. service includes 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.

"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.

150 PROSPECT

150 Prospect Open Mic Experience and Coffee House on May 10

Jeffrey Roche will anchor on May 10! In his own words, "Music has always played the monumental role of carrying me through the darkest moments of my life. I come from a very musical family, so learning and performing music was a daily experience for me. My Mother worked as a music teacher for over 30 years and served as the organist/choir director at my childhood church. All the way



through school, I performed in choirs and concert bands. I also became a member of my high school's marching band and during my freshman year, I traveled to California to perform in the Rose Bowl Parade, Disneyland, and Universal Studios. During my senior year, I began to teach myself how to play the guitar. I continued to write and perform original music, which mainly consisted of singing about my friends and issues that one encounters in their daily life. However, as I began making the decision to return to a Christian lifestyle, I began writing and performing music that would encourage others towards believing in Jesus and using it as an opportunity to share my personal testimony. I am also involved in performing with other Christian music groups. In 2018, I began attending New Life Church in Wallingford, CT and I have been faithfully serving as a member of their worship team. It has been an absolute blessing to use my musical ability in this way. As I continue to develop and build upon the gifts that Jesus has given me, I have begun to search for new ways to perform and the opportunity to expand upon what Jesus has given me."



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

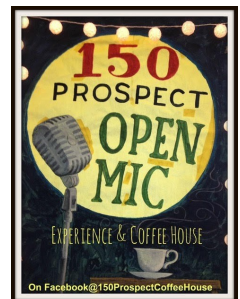
Guests are asked to bring a non-perishable food item for neighbors in need.

Please visit: www.150prospect.org.

A free-will donation is welcomed. 150 Prospect is located at 150 Prospect Street, Wethersfield, CT.

150 Prospect runs from October to May and there is no charge for entry. This WUMC ministry began in 2015 and we've been blessed with many new friendships as we continue to offer a substance-free venue for performers and audiences alike.

For more information, contact Tanja Moriarty, [860-614-5158](tel:860-614-5158), or tanjem265@gmail.com



OUR NEW PASTOR, REV. JOSHUA SWANSON

Dear Friends in Christ,

We joyfully announce to all of you that the Bishop and his cabinet members have selected a new pastor for our church. His name is Rev. Joshua Swanson. He will start on July 1, 2025.

Joshua Swanson is the youngest of six children, the son of Bishop James E. Swanson and Delphine R. Swanson. Josh has lived all over the South. As the son of a pastor, Josh has lived in many places like Savannah, Georgia; Knoxville, Tennessee; Atlanta, Georgia; and many more. Joshua received his Bachelor of Science from the University of Tennessee - Chattanooga, where he met his future wife, Lashay Swanson. After graduating from UTC, Joshua went to Candler School of Theology, where he received his M.Div. Then, he was appointed to Ketron Memorial UMC (now GMC) in 2017, where he and Shay would have their first (and only) child, Aria Swanson. Josh has served as the Director of two Wesley Foundations, one in Augusta and one in Carrollton, GA.

God Bless you all,
The SPPRC

REV. DR. MARION HUBBARD TO OFFER PRAYERS

Rev. Dr. Marion Hubbard will offer prayers at the Wethersfield Memorial Day Parade



Please come out to the Memorial Day Parade on **Saturday, May 24, 2025** to hear Rev. Dr. Marion Hubbard offer the Invocation Prayer and the Benediction. Memorial Day honors all men and women who have died while serving in the military for the United States of America. **The parade will step off at 9:00 a.m., starting on State Street by the DMV (Department of Motor Vehicles).**

Immediately following the Parade, there will be a Memorial Day Ceremony at Village Cemetery.

Please click on this link to view all information: <https://www.wethersfieldct.gov/memorial-day>

Rain Plans

In the event of inclement weather, the ceremonies will be moved indoors to Wethersfield High School and will begin at 10:00 a.m. The latest information will be announced on the Parks and Recreation Department program information line at (860) 721-2890. An announcement will also be posted in the announcements area of the home page of the town web site.

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVES

A Blood Drive will be held on May 17, 2025.

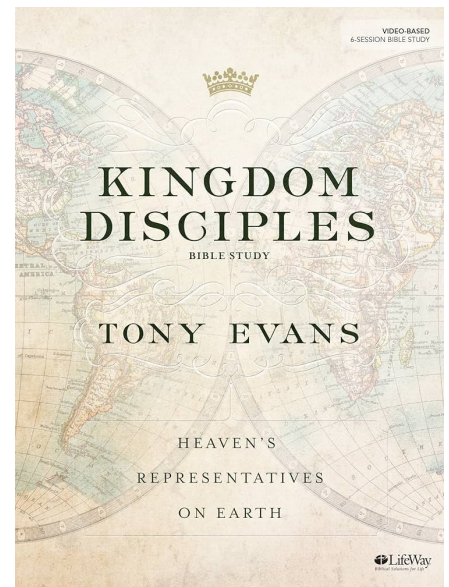
WORDLY WOMEN BIBLE STUDY

Where have all the disciples gone?

There is a missing force in Christianity today. Its absence has led to weak believers, disintegrating families, ineffective churches, and a decaying culture. Without it we lack what we need to fully live as heaven's representatives on earth. That missing force is discipleship. The result is powerless Christians attending powerless churches, having a powerless presence in the world. The power, authority, abundance, victory, and impact God has promised will come about only when we understand and align ourselves with His definition of discipleship.

Kingdom Disciples calls believers and churches back to our primary, divinely ordained responsibility to be disciples and to make disciples. Only when we take this assignment seriously will the world see heaven at work on earth.

The Spring study for the "Wordly Women" Bible study group is "Kingdom Disciples- Heavens Representatives on Earth," by Tony Evans. This is a six-week study which starts on Monday, April 28, 2025 and concludes on June 9, 2025 (no class on Memorial Day, May 26, 2025). There are two classes on the Mondays: either at 9:30 - 11:00 a.m. or at 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. The study consists of a teaching video, five days of homework and group discussion. All women of the church and their women friends and family are invited to participate in this study. Please, purchase (on amazon.com or lifeway.com) the "Kingdom Disciples- Heavens Representatives on Earth," by Tony Evans Bible Study Book with video access before the first class. There will be a sign-up sheet on the Community Connections Board.



Come study the Word of God with us!

SPRING FELLOWSHIP LUNCHEON



Spring Fellowship Luncheon for Seniors

Hello Seniors (men and women), there will be a Spring Fellowship Luncheon on May 20, at 11:30 a.m. in the FLC. It's a catered luncheon, cost is \$12/person. Cash or checks payable to Jan Ironside. Our own **Martha Arnold** will be sharing with us her adventures singing on Broadway and around the world. There may also be a challenging game or two. We'd love to see you there. You can RSVP by email to Jan, or sign up on the Community Connections Board by May 18.

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

REGISTRATION LINK FOR UM ARMY

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 reason you don't join us.

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

Please see pages 10 and 11 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:

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 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. Please see page 10 for information 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:

<https://umarmy.networkforgood.com/.../83595-2nd-annual...>

UNITED MISSION

U.M. ARMY NORTHEAST

2ND ANNUAL SWING FOR THE GREEN

GOLF OUTING & DINNER BENEFITING YOUTH MISSIONS

18 Holes of Golf
Lunch
Prizes and Local Craft Beer Tastings
19th Hole Cocktail Hour
Dinner
Silent Auction

Sponsorships available!

Lyman Orchards Golf Club
Middlefield, CT

Friday, May 16th, 2025

AT 1PM

GOLF & DINNER
\$155

COCKTAIL HOUR & DINNER ONLY
\$65

UNITED IN MISSION

U.M. ARMY UNITED IN MISSION

(Continued on next page)

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](https://www.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](https://www.umarmy.org)

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



CALENDAR

Please note: The information in this calendar is based on the online calendar as of May 1.

SUNDAY, May 4

- **8:30 a.m. Worship Service with Communion**
- **Sunday School at 9:30 - 10:15 a.m. in various classrooms**
- **Third Sunday of Easter Worship Service with Communion, in the Sanctuary and by Zoom at 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.**
- Native American Ministries Sunday -
- **Fellowship Hour at 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., FLC**
- **Focus on Mission Meeting at 12:00 - 2:00 p.m., Cool Jude Youth Room**
- **AED Training at 2:00 - 2:45 p.m., in the FLC or Cool Jude Youth Room**

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

MONDAY, May 5

Wordly Women at 9:30 - 11:00 a.m., Fireside Room
Rental at 4:00 - 6:30 p.m. in the FLC and Kitchen
Bishop's Time with the CT District at 6:00 - 9:00 p.m.
at First UMC, 159 East Main St., Meriden, 06450
Wordly Women at 6:30 - 8:00 p.m., Fireside Room
Rental at 7:00 - 9:30 p.m. in the FLC

TUESDAY, May 6

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 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. in Old Fellowship Hall

WEDNESDAY, May 7

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

THURSDAY, May 8

Ladies Out to Lunch Bunch at 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.,
at Salute in Rocky Hill
Rental at 4:00 - 8:00 p.m. in the FLC and Kitchen

FRIDAY, May 9

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

SATURDAY, May 10

150 Prospect set up all day
Rental at 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m., Old Fellowship Hall
150 Prospect Open Mic Experience and Coffee House
at 6:00 - 10:00 p.m., FLC and Kitchen

SUNDAY, May 11 - Happy Mother's Day

- **8:30 a.m. Worship Service with Communion**
- **Sunday School at 9:30 - 10:15 a.m. in various classrooms**
- **Mother's Day and Fourth Sunday of Easter 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**

CELEBRATIONS!

Birthday (May 4 - 11)

5/5 Leah Pocklington

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