

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.

June 16, 2024

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

Father's Day Fourth Sunday after Pentecost Worship Service at 10:30 a.m.



Please join us for an in-person Worship Service, led by Pastor John, in the Sanctuary at church and on Zoom!

Sunday, June 16, will be Pastor John's last day at WUMC. During the worship service, there will be a brief moment to honor his time with our congregation. Following the service, we will all share a hot lunch composed of some of Pastor John's favorite foods. Please join us to celebrate Pastor John!

For those who would prefer to stay at home and attend worship by Zoom, you will see our worship service in the Sanctuary! **The NEW 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 be playing piano, singing and leading music, *Pastor John* will lead the Children's Moment, *Gary Schaffrick* will read Scripture, the *Choir* will sing during the Offertory, and *Jan Ironside* will lead Joys and Concerns and a Special Moment.

The Sacrament of Holy Baptism will be held this Sunday for *Teaghan McAllister*. Teaghan's mother is *Elishia McAllister* and godparents are *Suzanne Neafus and Gary Schaffrick*.



In Remembrance of You Sermon by Pastor John

Join Zoom Meeting - This is a new Zoom link

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83972112794?pwd=XmVNCu6YKlQfebNzEtnyGhI3iSHnVu.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. John A. Thomason

Older Adult Ministry: Jan Ironside

Music Ministry: Michael Gowdy

Director of Children and Youth Ministry:

Elishia McAllister

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, June 18 at 9:00 a.m. is the deadline for the next issue of *Connections*. Thank you.

FROM PASTOR JOHN

How to contact Pastor John

- Working days on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. Available on Sunday afternoons and evenings for social contacts, appointments, and meetings.
- Church office phone, extension 113.
- Cellphone number: 845-707-5152, call or text; no landline at the parsonage.
- Church email address: johnthomason@wethersfieldchurch.org.
Personal email address: johnthomason1948@yahoo.com.

CONNECTIONS



This feature in our newsletter expresses thanks to people for special service to the church and highlights achievements of our members at school, at work, or in the community. Please text or email Pastor John with your contributions.

NEW ARTICLE

From Suzanne Neafus

Due to a technical issue, the June 9th service was unavailable on Zoom. A recorded video of parts of this service is now available on the church's website. From the main page, select the image of the runner. Then press the play button on the bottom left of the video.



DONATIONS NEEDED FOR UM ARMY CAMP

Karen Lewis is asking for donations of the following items for UM ARMY Summer Camp:

Individually wrapped:

- Chips
- Cookies
- Keurig pods, regular and flavored coffee
- Monetary donations to treat the hard workers
- Cold snacks on the work sight
- Toilet paper and paper towels
- Bathroom cleaner

Karen is asking to borrow 3 electric skillets or griddles. She will return them to you.

Please contact Karen Lewis at 860-797-9927. Thank you.

DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH MINISTRY

Please contact Elishia McAllister, Director of Children and Youth Ministry at (860) 529 - 2025, ext 115, for more information.

Thank you.

WETHERSFIELD UMC YOUTH MINISTRY'S SATURDAY SERVICE PROJECTS SUMMERTIME EDITION

June 29th 9 am - 12 pm:
Bloom  Brigade @ WUMC garden beds

July 20th 11:30 am - 6:30 pm
(join us at any time, for any duration):
Benincasa Community
2160 Durham Rd, Guilford, CT 06437

**Carpooling
available!**

Director of Youth & Children's Ministry:
elishiamcallister@wethersfieldchurch.org

<https://www.wethersfieldchurch.org>



Follow Wethersfield UMC
on Facebook!

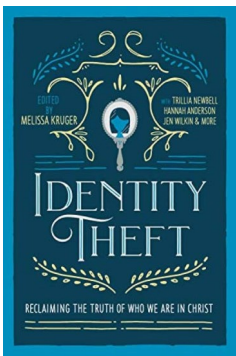
PUMPKIN PATCH

The arrival of our Pumpkins for the Pumpkin Patch will occur on Friday, September 27 at 4:00 p.m. Please make every effort to be there to help unload our supply and help set up our patch this season. More information will be forthcoming over the next few months. Thanks, Gary.

WORDLY WOMEN SUMMER STUDY

Wordly Women Summer Study:

[Identity Theft: Reclaiming the Truth of our Identity in Christ](#)



Who am I? It's a question we all ask ourselves at some point. Depending on the season we focus our identity on our job performance, marital status, personality type, or social network, among other options. However, there's a larger question to consider. Who does the Bible tell me I am in Christ? From the wisdom and perspective of insightful authors—including Jen Wilkin, Hannah Anderson, and Jen Pollock Michel—we'll seek to answer this question by: Exposing our false notions of identity; Understanding the biblical truth of our identity in Christ; and Reflecting on what it looks like to live in our new (and true) identity. In 10 chapters we'll cover everything from our identity as children of God to citizens of heaven. At the end of each chapter, study questions will facilitate group discussion as you consider this glorious truth with your friends. Join us as we explore how knowing who we are in Christ changes every aspect of our lives.

All women of the church are invited to join the Wordly Women's Summer Study: We will meet three times on Monday mornings and evenings during the summer. The exact Mondays will be determined by the availability of the participants. Please, let Deb Draizen know that you would like to join the study and which Mondays you CANNOT make. (dsdraizen@gmail.com or 860-593-7559). We will try to accommodate as many as we can! All are welcome.

The book is available to purchase for a sale price on Amazon.

A BOOK STUDY ON SUNDAYS

A Book Study on Sundays at 9:30 a.m.

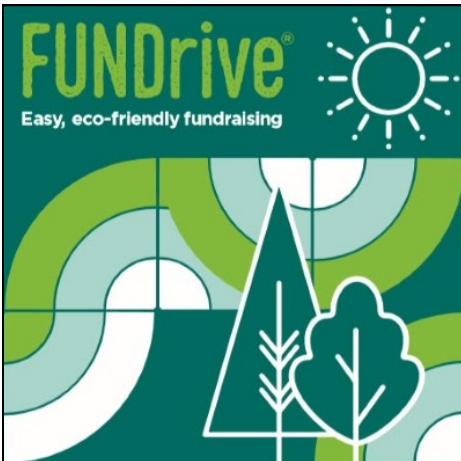
"Living Our Beliefs," The United Methodist Way

By Kenneth L. Carder

Foreword by Randy L. Maddox

Please contact Gary Schaffrick for more information.

FUNDRIE EVENT



FUNDrive Event

From now until August 31, the Wethersfield United Methodist Church will participate in its 3rd FUNDrive event.

During this event, the church will collect clothing, household items, books, toys, sheets, towels and other linens. These items will be donated to Savers and the church will be paid a few per pound for the various items.

All household goods in good and reusable condition will be donated to *Journey Home*, a mission of our church.

Please contact Gary Schaffrick at bristolgary1@gmail.com or call 860-806-0609 with any questions.

If you're Spring Cleaning and want to discard some of your older items or clean up a cluttered area of your home, or if you know someone who is moving, please think of the church. We can make arrangements to pick up any items you may have.

Wethersfield United Methodist Church has received close to \$1,000 this year in our FUNDrive events. Please consider helping us out over the summer.

MEET FOR MAHJONG

Meet for Mahjong!

We are taking a break for the summer months and will resume the "Meet for Mahjong Tuesdays" in the Fall. If you are interested in learning how to play the game of American Mahjong, please, contact Deb Draizen(dskraft@gmail.com or 860-593-7559).

There will be a few classes over the summer for those who are interested.

JULY 27 SUMMER SHINDIG

SAVE THIS DATE! SATURDAY, JULY 27

Mark your calendars . . . you don't want to miss the

"SUMMER SHINDIG"

WUMC is celebrating 200 years as a "House of Worship" in the town of Wethersfield. Time for our church family to break bread together and then have some fun!

[Watch Connections for more details.](#)

200th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION CORNER

200 Years of Fundraising

The Bible has many references to being as generous as we can to aid the poor and further God's work. From the great commandment to love one another comes the motivation to financially support our church, which exists to spread the love of God and teach the hope and promise of salvation. Christians are called to be cheerful givers in 2 Corinthians 2:8-9. Jesus praised the widow who gave her last coins at the temple in Mark 12 and Luke 41. The generosity of the early church is noted in Acts. However, Jesus was angry with the money changers and those who bought and sold sacrificial doves in Mathew 21:12-17 for making the house of prayer a den of robbers.



Ideally, enough money to operate the church, to pay staff, maintain property and fund the programming would be freely donated. Tithing, giving 10% of one's income "that belongs to the Lord," as found in Leviticus 27:30, is a challenge for many. The New Testament does not command us to tithe but encourages us to voluntarily give in proportion to our wealth. WUMC has a yearly pledge drive, usually in the fall, asking us to plan what we can donate for the next budget year. There are no member dues or monetary assessments. What an individual gives is very private information. Pledging is not required to join or attend worship. Your participation in church activities or decision-making is not linked to what you contribute. New WUMC members, including confirmands, publicly make a vow to support the United Methodist Church and uphold the local congregation with one's prayers, gifts, service and witness. Our budget is carefully made with input from all committees, and presented for review and comment, before adoption by members' vote at the yearly charge conference. At this meeting on October 8, 1925, the Rev. Harold Brennan "asked that his people not feel depressed over the great need of money but to think of the opportunity for the church in a spiritual way."

Fundraising is critical for our survival and growth. If it was moral and legal, our church probably did it to make money. Large campaigns were launched for major building projects, starting in 1824 for our first 130 Main Street church, its renovation in 1882, repair after the 1941 fire, building of our 150 Prospect Street church, and the Family Life Center – kitchen – Cool Jude Youth Room additions in 2005. Some fundraising was to meet budget, some for specific one-time service or property projects. Church groups, especially the men's, women's, Sunday school and young adults, raised money regularly to fund a particular expense. There was a time of steady church membership growth early this century that allowed all fundraising profits to be used exclusively for mission and outreach.

This is by no means a complete or chronological narrative of all of our fundraising projects but an overview of 200 years. Early church records lack detail but indicate that a lot of fundraising occurred. On March 7, 1881, it was reported that the fair and festival of the Ladies Aid Society raised \$31.92 plus \$14.75 from Mr. Buck's lecture. A "Birthday Party" on March 23, 1898 served cake to those who gave a cent for every year of age. A "Measuring Party" on March 31, 1899 asked for 3 pennies for every foot and another for every inch more, "it will be your price for something nice, a novel parish supper." The Rev. Colburn wrote a Brief Historical Sketch of the Wethersfield M. E. Church which was sold for 15 cents a copy, with ads from local businesses, to raise money for the 1882 renovations. (This sketch is a source for much of our early church history.) In 1940, the Older Young People's Council held a whist party to pay the coal bill. The Ladies Aid Society held a telephone bridge party that year.

(Continued on next page)

200th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION CORNER

200 Years of Fundraising (Continued)

Just like today, church space was rented to the public. We did have reservations about anything suggesting outright gambling, and alcohol was never allowed. On October 4, 1939, church board notes report that “a Mrs. Adams is not in favor of renting the hall for dancing and had heard criticism from people in town as well as 25 miles away. A motion was made but not seconded or carried that dancing, smoking, card playing, and giving shows in church will be prohibited.” It was voted on November 15, 1939 to rent to Miss Francis for dance classes on Saturday afternoons for \$2 a week.” Currently, rental use of our Family Life Center, gym, large kitchen and other areas provides substantial income.

From 1959 to 1965, the Men’s Club collected over 70 tons of newspaper that was sold to raise \$2,820. The Senior Methodist Youth pedaled 200 miles in 24 hours in 1977 to collect pledges from the congregation in a Cycle A Thon. The Ladies groups ran rummage sales, assembled and sold cookbooks, sold church notepaper and much more. Major long-running fundraisers that focused on food, entertainment and seasonal festivals will be featured in the next 200th anniversary history article.

CREATIVE PASTIMES

CREATIVE PASTIMES / PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

We continue to meet on the 1st, 3rd, and 5th Thursdays of the month from 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. at WUMC in the Fireside Room. You are welcome to bring your portable handcraft any week you are able. Most of us knit or crochet. Prayer shawls are always available. Call Grace Hayes for information at 860-970-3108.



Next Sunday, June 23, Worship Time Changes to 9:30 a.m.

Summer Worship Services begin and are in the Sanctuary and by Zoom at 9:30 - 10:30 a.m.

If you would like to make an electronic offering to WUMC, please click on this link:

[Donate \(paypal.com\)](https://www.paypal.com)

"COOL JUDE" MEMORIAL GOLF TOURNAMENT



4TH ANNUAL "COOL JUDE"

MEMORIAL GOLF &
AUCTION FUNDRAISER

SATURDAY AUG. 24, 2024

Goodwin Park GC - Hartford, CT



IN LOVING MEMORY OF
JUDE EXANTUS

Resident of Wethersfield and father of 3 children who attend school in town. Jude grew up in Haiti and moved to the U.S. after surviving the 2010 Earthquake. He and his wife, Claudia (Dadou), worked tirelessly to provide a beautiful home and life for TJ, Layla, and Jayden.

Jude was a man of many talents: A Youth Leader at the Wethersfield United Methodist Church and served as a translator for groups traveling to Haiti for missionary work. He was a wonderful singer & drummer who led the Union Brothers a cappella group. He enjoyed playing indoor soccer, hockey, and of course, golf. His children followed suit and play competitive athletics.

We knew him affectionately as "COOL JUDE," because he brought a smile and faithful energy to everything he did. Jude was passionate about his involvement in the community, and his relentless service to others. If you had the chance to meet him, you instantly gained a trusted and loyal friend!

Jude passed away from Lung Cancer in March 2021 at the age of 43, and is greatly missed by all.

REGISTER NOW

CoolJudeGolfTournament.com

\$160

ADULTS

\$110

YOUTH

Includes Golf, Prizes, Snack & Dinner

OR

\$50

Dinner & Raffles Only

DONATE TO THE FAMILY

All proceeds go directly to the Exantus family to support education for TJ, Layla, and Jayden.



CoolJudeMemorialFund@gmail.com

CARING FOR CHURCH GROUNDS

The extensive grounds of WUMC are cared for by volunteers. Al Dowd and Doug Weed do all the lawn mowing, blowing, and raking. Gerry and Grace Hayes need help with the gardens. Could someone, or maybe a family or church group, adopt an area, such as around the gazebo, or in front of the sanctuary ramp, or the shrubbery bed in the middle of the FLC ramp? The memorial garden requires frequent weeding and deadheading. Please call Grace at 860-970-3108 to volunteer.

OUR NEW PASTOR

Our new pastor, Rev. Dr. Marion Ryan Hubbard

As of July 1, our new pastor will be Rev. Dr. Marion Ryan Hubbard. She had previously served with us back in 2021 for 4 months while Rev. Beckford was on leave. Listed below is her biographical information



Rev. Dr. Marion Ryan Hubbard is a member of the New York Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church with 20 years of service in parish ministry as an ordained Elder. She has served as a pastor to seven churches in the New York Annual Conference. She earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology from Post University. She also holds a Master's of Divinity and a Doctor of Ministry degree from Drew University. Her doctorate dissertation was "A Guide to a Faith-Based Support Group for Adults Who Personally Experienced Childhood Trauma."

Marion has done extensive work in ministry in Ghana, Africa. In her ten years of service to the Ghanaian people, she was a co-founder of the Project Dorcas Medical Clinic in the north of Ghana in Tamale, bringing much-needed medical assistance to the wonderful people of the rural Yapalla Village and surrounding areas. She has also been a part of the Kairos International prison ministry team serving over 10 years in the Connecticut prison system.

Being a New Yorker, born and raised with a love of adventure, has taken her on many exciting journeys with God at her side. She has traveled to many

states across the U.S. and around the world including Korea, China, India, Turkey, Jerusalem, Germany, the Czech Republic, England, Ireland, and Scotland.

In 1981, Marion became a single mom and left New York City with her three children and settled in Bethel, CT. As God would have it, twelve years later, the love of her life appeared, and she married for a second time to a wonderful man, Robert Hubbard. Between them, they have ten children and twenty-one grandchildren. They were married for 31 wonderful years until Bob's passing this past January from Dementia. In 2018, Marion retired from active ministry at the New York Annual Conference to take care of her husband who developed dementia. For the past six years, they have lived in Tequesta, FL, and attended First United Methodist of Jupiter, FL. She has been active in her local United Methodist church, serving wherever needed, preaching on occasion, visiting the shut-ins, and running Bible studies and support groups during the year. She is currently working part-time as a Counselor for Community Christian Counseling Center.

Her mother always stated, "Going out with Marion is like going on an adventure; you never know where you will end up." Pastor Marion is so excited to be joining us again to continue the journey of bringing God's love to Wethersfield and beyond.

FELLOWSHIP COFFEE HOUR

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

From Betty: I am asking for goodies as follows:

First Sunday	Last names starting with A-C
Second Sunday	Last names starting with D-I
Third Sunday	Last names starting with J-Q
Fourth Sunday	Last names starting with R-W
Fifth Sunday	Anyone on a Committee

Many thanks to all who contribute goodies for Coffee Hour.

“BUCK A BOOK” BOOK NOOK FUNDRAISER

The books will be located in the foyer of the FLC in bookcases. Just stop by, browse through the shelves, and leave a “Buck-a-Book” in the donation box. The books that we have in storage will be added to the shelves gradually. . .so stop by often to see what is new!

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 FLC 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 **Saturday, June 22.** - *Gerry and Grace Hayes*

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 2024. The most urgent need right now are counters

for June, but we need counters for months beyond June as well. Gerry will provide the needed training to all new volunteers.

Thank you.

Doug Weed
weedd721@aol.com
(860)-707-6636

CALENDAR

Please note: The information in this calendar is based on the online calendar as of June 13

SUNDAY, June 16 - Happy Father's Day!

- Adult Bible Study at 9:30 -10:20 a.m. in various classrooms
- Fourth Sunday after Pentecost Worship Service, Father's Day, in the Sanctuary and by Zoom at 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.
- Please join us for a hot lunch following worship to celebrate Pastor John

MONDAY, June 17

Rental at 4:00 - 6:30 p.m. in the FLC and Kitchen
Rental at 7:00 - 9:30 p.m. in the FLC

TUESDAY, June 18

Morning Prayer at 9:00 a.m. in the Fireside Room
Rental at 4:00 - 8:00 p.m. in the FLC and Kitchen
Church Council Meeting at 6:30 p.m.
in the Choir Room
Rental at 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. in Old Fellowship Hall

WEDNESDAY, June 19

Rental at 4:00 - 8:00 p.m. in the FLC and Kitchen
Rental at 6:00 - 10:00 p.m. in the Music Room
Education Meeting at 6:30 p.m. by Zoom

THURSDAY, June 20

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
Chancel Choir Rehearsal at 7:30 p.m.
in the Music Room

FRIDAY, June 21

Rental at 4:00 - 8:00 p.m. in the FLC and
Kitchen
Rental at 6:00 - 10:00 p.m. in the Choir Room

SATURDAY, June 22

Red Cross Blood Drive at 7:00 a.m.— 2:00 p.m.
in the FLC

SUNDAY, June 23

Worship Time Changes to 9:30 a.m.

- Summer Worship Service, in the Sanctuary and by Zoom at 9:30 - 10:30 a.m.
- Fellowship Coffee Hour at 10:30 - 11:30 a.m. in the FLC and Kitchen
- Y.A.A.H. - Young Adult Activity Hour at 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m., in the Cool Jude Youth Room

CELEBRATIONS!

Birthday

6/17 Jason Strickland
6/20 Chasity Hotaling-Fuggetta
6/20 Elliana Di Mauro

Anniversaries

6/18 Peter and Elizabeth Gaulton

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.

Covid Policy - Effective September 4, 2022: WUMC returned to a "mask optional" policy for worship services, Congregants are encouraged to continue with masking and social distancing as they feel comfortable. WUMC will continue to follow state guidelines as they become available. -WUMC Church Council

Wethersfield United Methodist Church
150 Prospect Street
Wethersfield, CT 06109