

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 30, 2024

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



"Faith, Compassion, and the Grace of Giving: Stories of Redemption and Healing"

Sermon by Matthew Garcia

Please join us for an in-person Worship Service, led by Matthew Garcia, in the Family Life Center (FLC) 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 FLC! **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 FLC. *William Weiner* will be our guest pianist, *Elishia McAllister* will lead the Children's moment, *Bev Ryan* will read Scripture and *Martha Arnold* will lead Joys and Concerns.

Please join us for Fellowship Coffee Hour at 10:30 - 11:30 a.m. in the FLC and Kitchen

Summer Worship Sixth Sunday after Pentecost Worship Service at 9:30 a.m. in the FLC



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>

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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, July 2 at 9:00 a.m. is the deadline for the next issue of *Connections*. Thank you.

FROM PASTOR JOHN

Pastor John wrote the following in *Connections* on June 16, 2024:

I will be moving on Thursday, June 20, to Bethel, CT, a town adjacent to Danbury and Redding, where I will live in close proximity to my daughter *Kate*, son-in-law *Dylan*, and grandson *Allen*. My address will be 34 Granite Dr., Bethel, CT, 06801. My phone number (845-707-5152) and email address (johnthomason1948@yahoo.com) will always remain the same. *Rev. Marion Hubbard* will be your one and only pastor as of July 1, however, I welcome the opportunity to maintain friendships with WUMC members in the years to come.

Last Sunday I quoted the apostle Paul's salutation to the church at Philippi: "I thank my God in all my remembrance of you." This is also my salutation to the church at Wethersfield! I love you and treasure the time I've had with you.

Grace and peace, *John*

WE PRAY FOR THESE FAMILIES



Christian sympathy is extended to the family of long-time church member *Kathy McLeod*, who died after a long illness on Monday, June 17, in Massachusetts. A memorial service for Kathy will be held on Friday, June 28, at 11:00 a.m. in the WUMC sanctuary with Pastor John officiating.



Our hearts are saddened to learn of the death of Russ Partridge on Monday, June 24, at Hartford Hospital. In keeping with Russ's wishes, there will be no funeral service. However, WUMC will remember Russ with much affection and gratitude. Our prayers are with Marty and all of Russ's family in their time of loss and adjustment.

NEW ARTICLES

Help Needed this Saturday, June 29 - Pastor Marion is moving in!

Pastor Marian is seeking some muscle on Saturday morning (June 29), at 10:00 a.m. at the parsonage, 111 Prospect Street, to help move her in. Please let's give her a warm Wethersfield United Methodist Church welcome and have a few strong (young) people over to help her and her family get settled in. Please let Gary know by emailing him at bristolgary1@gmail.com or calling 860-806-0609.

NEW ARTICLES



UM ARMY Summer Camp is coming up fast!

Karen Lewis is looking for donations of:

INDIVIDUAL SNACKS
CHIPS and CANDY
ICE POPS THAT SHE CAN FREEZE FOR THE KIDS
TOILET PAPER
PAPER TOWELS
GIFT CARDS FOR BJ's
MONETARY DONATIONS

Please contact Karen Lewis: 860-798-9927
Thank you.

A two-week edition of *Connections*

On Sunday, July 14, we will have a two-week edition of *Connections*, which will give you the church news for the weeks starting July 14 and July 21.

The deadline for this two-week edition is
Tuesday, July 9 at 9:00 a.m.

Thank you.

Karen Rudewicz, *Office Administrator*

SUMMER WORSHIP HOURS



**Our new worship time
for the summer: 9:30 - 10:30 a.m.**

June 30:

The service will be in the Family Life Center

July 7:

The service will be in the Sanctuary

July 14 - September 8:

The service will be in the Family Life Center

All services are in-person and,
also, broadcasted on Zoom.

YARD GOATS BALL GAME

Come Join Us -

Faith and Family Night - Yard Goats Ball Game

Wednesday, July 10 - Game begins at 7:10 p.m.

Tickets are \$14 per person. Seats are in Section 118, Rows B and C.
All attendees have the option to walk in the pre-game parade.

Sign up at the Community Connections board or
contact Suzanne Neafus at skneafus@yahoo.com.

Payment is due June 30. Thank you!



MIDNIGHT DAD DEVOTIONALS

***Midnight Dad Devotionals* still available**

If you were not able to pick one up on Sunday,
we still have copies available.

Please contact Suzanne Neafus at skneafus@yahoo.com.



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!

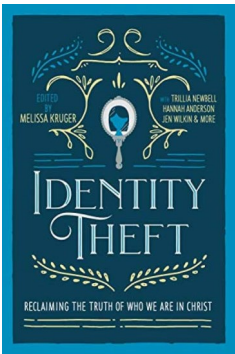
PUMPKIN PATCH

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.

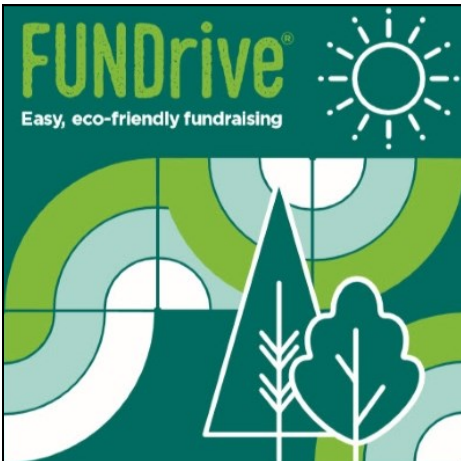
JUNE 9 SERVICE AVAILABLE ON WEBSITE



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.

FUNDRIVE 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.

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 Food, Festivals and Fun

Early on, church records indicate we often gathered with our congregation and local community to raise money. Before the modern convenience of restaurants and food delivery, our church provided opportunities to dine outside the home with friends and neighbors. On February 2, 1913, the Ladies Aid Society held a supper in the Grange Hall next door that raised \$9.83. Later that month, they sold tickets to a Red and Blue Valentine Social. A Harvest Supper and Fair was discussed in 1921 and held annually. Over 200 were served at its turkey supper in 1941 that made \$170. A December 1939 turkey supper was preceded by a program of Christmas carols on the chimes. Hence turkey was the main course of the Heritage Celebration Dinner this past March. Board meeting notes mention roll call suppers from 1925–1951 to raise money for coal.



The Women's Society of Christian Service cooked and served weekly dinners for the Rotary Club, starting at the original Main Street church and continuing after the move to Prospect Street. We have had years of Methodist Youth Fellowship pasta dinners, preschool pasta dinners, fall Yankee pot roast meals, and spring chicken and ham dinners.

The first strawberry festival was held in 1961 and grew larger year by year until 1996. An early morning team picked, hulled, cut and sugared berries, bakers made shortcake, cream was whipped, chicken was barbecued, and potato salad and coleslaw prepared. Volunteers found their role and team leaders depended on them every year. Reservations became necessary for this sold-out event. Hungry diners waited in the sanctuary and were led in hymn singing until a table was available. Somehow, this happened in a small kitchen, now the education resource room and Old Fellowship Hall.

Seasonal fairs were common and the December Christmas Fair became the largest. It was a full weekend event with early coffee and donuts, a clam chowder sandwich luncheon and ham dinner. Booths sold candy, baked goods, cheese, ceramics, white elephant items, jewelry, and the craft goods and holiday decorations the ladies groups had made throughout the year. Holiday decorations and music with Santa-hatted volunteers made it fun for the church and community that supported us. Our first fall flea market craft fair netted \$910 in 1982. Our first pumpkin patch in 2018 raised \$2,700 and has grown into a major fundraiser. It requires many volunteers who unload the pumpkin delivery truck, set up and oversee daily sales for all of October. Profits are shared with the southwest Native Americans who grow the pumpkins. The craft fair attracts the community to buy pumpkins, browse the vendor booths, take photos and eat a hot dog lunch.

Musical shows and plays were a large part of fundraising in the 1900s. This was before TV and movies, and access to big city entertainment and sporting events. The flyer for an Entertainment for the Benefit of the M.E. Church, held on January 31, 1900 at the next-door Grange Hall, is posted on the bulletin board near the Old Fellowship Hall. It featured a piano solo, recitation, scarf drill, zither and vocal pieces. I recognize the names of performers from church board meeting notes. Also posted is a program held on April 4, 1924 for A Bunch of Fun Comedy presented by our Epworth League, a young adult Methodist organization. The cast appears to have been church members, directed by Miss Gertrude Beebe of Miss Coe's School of Oratory.

(Continued on next page)

200th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION CORNER

200 Years of Food, Festivals and Fun (Continued)

After the Hubawi Club, a group of church husbands and wives, reported on money raised by a recent play on June 6, 1932, notes indicate that "Pastor Bergston spoke at some length on religious pantomimes, saying he hoped they would in no sense be taken as entertainment but were put on purely for worship and education." Hubawi also presented an Olde Folks Concert and two plays in 1932, and three minstrel shows in 1940 and 1941. The last minstrel show drew over 600 to Wethersfield High School. The event made \$650, which was used for repairs after the 1941 church fire. The Krazy Kapers of 58 Variety Show raised \$878 in 1958 for the fund to build the Prospect Street church. The MYF held talent show fundraisers, proving year after year that we enjoy making each other laugh and a few of us have actual talent to share. A runway fashion show featuring rummage sale rejects was a highlight.

Special choir and music performances are now given more to praise God with the gift of music than to raise money. The most recent was our 200th Anniversary Concert in front of the church on May 4, 2024. All of these projects require volunteers and leadership and are valuable opportunities for fellowship and community outreach. For 200 years, we have supported our church with our prayers, gifts, service and witness.

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.

LEARN TO PLAY MAHJONG



Learn to Play Mahjong

Summer is a great time to learn a new game! We will meet twice in July and maybe twice in August to learn the "exotic" game of American Mahjong. . .Tuesday, July 16 from 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. and Tuesday, July 23 from 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. Contact Deb Draizen (dsdraizen@gmail.com) if you have any questions. Men and women. . .high schoolers to seniors. . .all are welcome!

"COOL JUDE" MEMORIAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

It's time to sign up, we are ½ full already !!!

Register at www.cooljudegolftournament.com

Pay by Venmo \$160 adults \$110 youth

Cool Jude

@Jeff-Sabourin-1



Goodwin Park GC – 1130 Maple Ave., Hartford, CT

Golfer Check-in 10:30 – 11:30 am **Tee time is 12 noon.**

Magic Yard, Putting Contest and Hole-in-1 challenge.

After Golf - Open bar, prizes, 6 pm dinner & auction

Very important ... wear your most colorful golf attire!



Please see the next page for more details.

"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, July 20.** - *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 27

SUNDAY, June 30

Worship Time is 9:30 a.m.

- Summer Worship Service, in the FLC 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

MONDAY, July 1

Wordly Women Bible Study at 9:30 - 11:00 a.m. in the Fireside Room

Wordly Women Bible Study at 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. in the Fireside Room

TUESDAY, July 2

Morning Prayer at 9:00 a.m. in the Fireside Room
Rental at 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. in Old Fellowship Hall

WEDNESDAY, July 3

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

THURSDAY, July 4

Happy 4th of July!

FRIDAY, July 5

Rental at 6:00 - 10:00 p.m. in the Choir Room

SUNDAY, July 7

Worship Time is 9:30 a.m.

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

CELEBRATIONS!

Birthdays

6/30 Savannah Garcia

7/7 Shannon DiMauro

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.

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

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

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