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.

July 14 and July 21, 2024

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

A two-week edition of Connections for the weeks of July 14 and 21, 2024

Summer Worship

July 14 and 21 Worship Services at 9:30 a.m. in the FLC

Please join us for an in-person Worship Services, in the 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 below.

Our worship slide show, which includes music lyrics, will be projected on our screen in the FLC. *Mike Gowdy* will be playing piano, singing and leading music.

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

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/u/kcL9wQYL8i



July 14: "There is Hope"
Sermon by Rev. Marion Hubbard



July 21: "Promises"
Sermon by Gary Schaffrick



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Pastor: The Rev. Dr. Marion Ryan Hubbard

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

FROM THE PASTOR

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ

Thank you from the bottom of my heart. Everyone has been so warm and welcoming to me my first week at Wethersfield United Methodist Church. I am looking forward to getting to know each and every one of you. As we journey together, it is my hope and prayer that we will continue to grow in God's love in our community and beyond.

As many of you may know, I will be away next week. If you need Pastoral Assistance, please call Colin Armour and he will connect you with the Pastor-on-call.

In Christ's Love, Pastor Marion

As of July 1, our new pastor is the 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 twentyone 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.

WE PRAY FOR THESE FAMILIES

Dear Friends,



It is with much sadness of heart that I need to inform you of our beloved Sister in Christ Nancy Sinha's passing on July 11, 2024. Please keep her family in your prayers.

The funeral arrangements are as follows:

Monday Evening, July 15, 2024 - Calling hours at D'Esopo Funeral Home from 4 pm to 7 pm, 277 Folly Brook Blvd, Wethersfield, CT 06109

Tuesday Morning, July 16, 2024, at 11:00 am there will be a funeral service at the church (Pastor John will be officiating).

As many of you may know, I will be away next week. If you need Pastoral Assistance, please call Colin Armour and he will connect you with the Pastor-on-call.

God's peace be to all and especially to the Sinha family.

Pastor Marion



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

Summer Shindig Saturday, July 27, Family Life Center

Our 200th anniversary celebration continues. Join us on **Saturday, July 27 from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. in the FLC** for our Summer Shindig. This family fun event features food, games and line dancing!

Main course and dessert will be provided. They'll be a sign-up sheet on the Community Connections board for those who would like to bring a potluck side. Please mark your calendars. See you then.

Music is provided by Sunshine Entertainment, 860-899-9950

Scarecrows on Main

As part of the church's commemoration of 200 years as a "house of worship" in Wethersfield, we will participate in "Scarecrows on Main" this October. Please, contact Deb Draizen (860-593-7559 or dsdraizen@gmail.com) if you would like to help create our entry.



NEW ARTICLES

WANTED: ITEMS FOR CRAFT TABLE

Our annual "Arts and Craft Festival" will take place on Saturday, October 12, 2024 around the "Pumpkin Patch." Besides the 20-30 Outside Craft vendors we would like to feature a WUMC Craft Booth. All crafted items are welcomed, but, we would like to encourage any type of "Holiday" crafts. . .

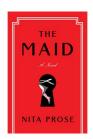


anything "Pumpkin"...but also, anything for Halloween, Thanksgiving or the Christmas season. Use your imaginations: think ornaments, home décor, knit items, jams and jellies for entertaining and gift giving, hostess gifts...etc. Please, contact Deb Draizen (dsdraizen@gmail.com) with any questions. And crafters we can't wait to see what you create! Start crafting!



"Just Come Anyway" Book Club

Here are the details of the next "Just Come Anyway" meeting. All women who love to read are invited to attend. We get together about once every 4-6 weeks for a lively discussion of the selected book, to enjoy some fellowship and to share some laughs together! Bring a snack to share if you can. Come every time, come once in a while, come if you have read the whole book, come even if you have not finished the book. . . "Just Come Anyway." This is fun and a great way to get to know others!



Book: "The Maid" by Nita Prose

When: July 28, 2024, from 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Where: TBD, closer to the date

Remember: If you would like, you can bring an appetizer, hors d'oeuvre or dessert to share. Please, call 860-529-2025 with any other questions.



HELP NEEDED FOR SUNDAY SERVICES



"BROADWAY AT THE BARN"



On **Saturday July 20**, our own Mike Gowdy will be musically directing/playing a "Broadway at the Barn." This outside performance will be at the Kycla Barn on Highland Street in the town of Wethersfield.

His wife Rosanne, and many others will be singing Broadway classics!

This is a fun, free event for anyone who can come.

A BEGINNING HANDBELL GROUP

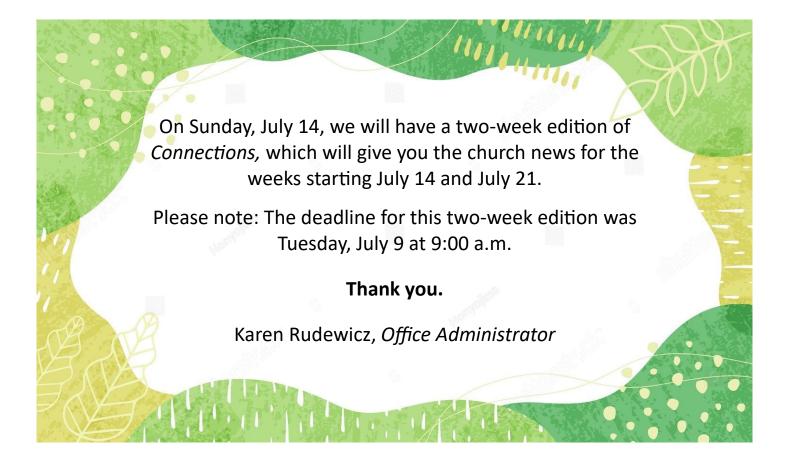
Summer Handbell Group

Have you ever wanted to try playing handbells? Well, now is the time. I am organizing a beginning handbell group to play in church on Sunday, August 18. I am thinking rehearsals will be Thursday evenings, but we will finalize that once we know who wants to participate. If interested, please let me know by Sunday, July 21. Thank you.



Suzanne Neafus, email: skneafus@yahoo.com, 860-881-7000 (cell)

A TWO-WEEK EDITION OF CONNECTIONS



"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!



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

Donate (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 7

SUMMER WORSHIP HOURS



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

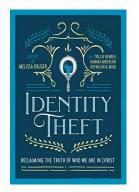
July 14 - September 8: The service will be in the Family Life Center

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

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.

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 <u>bristolgary1@gmail.com</u> 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.

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.

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.

Blood Drives will be held on Saturday, July 20 and 24. - Gerry and Grace Hayes

200th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION CORNER

WUMC and Haiti

Our local church world grew larger starting in 2002. By then, we had begun to make more connections with nearby Hartford. A pulpit exchange began with North Methodist Church on Albany Avenue that continued until the COVID-19 pandemic shut down all in-person worship. That church is now part of our parish cluster. Regular exposure to the faith culture of this West Indies congregation introduced us to its vibrant preaching, music and food. Relationships were established with South Park Inn, a homeless shelter; Interval House, a shelter for victims of domestic violence; and Plimpton House, a permanent group residence for difficult-to-place homeless. Methodist Youth Fellowship was integral in getting adults of all ages involved. We learned that any difference we could make mattered and we felt



invigorated as a church concerned with more than its members and property. This energy and focus expanded to overnight trips to repair a New York City church and to southern states to work on flood cleanup of homes damaged by hurricanes.

Our Pastors Tom and Wendy Vencuss led the first WUMC mission trip to Haiti in 2002. They were troubled by the poverty of its people who lived only 700 miles and 2 hours by airplane from Miami. This poverty is rooted in the injustices of the French colonial period, when slave labor destroyed forests and natural resources were plundered. Political unrest followed independence from France in 1804 and later separation from the Dominican Republic, and continues today. Colonialism brought the Catholic faith. In 1806, the English Wesleyan Mission sent British Methodist pastors, followed by Baptist and Episcopalian missionaries. Protestantism took a stronger hold in southern rural villages and Catholicism in the cities. Haiti seemed like a place to build on these Methodist roots in Christian service. And Christian service is why WUMC exists.

The Mountains of Hope for Haiti (MHH) pamphlet, available in the hallway near the office, and website detail how our Wethersfield outreach grew to involve 25 different churches, more than 35 Volunteers in Mission Teams and many participants from our Connecticut District and New York Annual Conference. Building a new medical clinic in the rural mountain town of Furcy became the focus. Since the 2010 earthquake devastated Haiti, MHH partners with other United Methodist Committee on Relief initiatives in agriculture, hygiene, clean water, school scholarships and school lunch programs. All projects are coordinated with the local Haitian Methodist church in Furcy.

Until the COVID-19 pandemic and increase in political violence, our church sent teams regularly to Furcy to do construction, work with children in Bible School programs, worship and fellowship with Haitians, deliver medical supplies, books, and whatever projects were needed. It became a rite of passage for our teen youth and the adults who made repeated trips. Many a "Mission Meal" fundraiser, as well as Celebrate Haiti Festival, supported the trips and outreach work. It connected us to other like-minded congregations. WUMC is most grateful that it brought us the Exantus family after Jude facilitated our Haiti efforts in his home country. Until it is safe for teams to return to Haiti, prayers and financial support are welcome. Judy Dowd and Matt Garcia are among our members who made several trips to Haiti. I encourage anyone interested in more details to speak with them, or to our now young adults who were privileged to share this faith experience.

"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

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.



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.



CoolJudeMemorialFund@gmail.com

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.

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 (<u>dsdraizen@gmail.com</u>) if you have any questions. Men and women. . .high schoolers to seniors. . .all are welcome!

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.

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. 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 July 12

SUNDAY, July 14 - 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 15

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, July 16

Morning Prayer at 9:00 a.m. in the Fireside Room Funeral Service at 11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary, Nancy Sinha

Rental at 4:00 - 8:00 p.m. in the FLC and Kitchen Rental at 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. in Old Fellowship Hall

WEDNESDAY, July 17

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

THURSDAY, July 18

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

FRIDAY, July 19

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

SATURDAY, JULY 20

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

SUNDAY, July 21 - 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
- Communitas Meeting at 11:00 a.m. 12:30 p.m. in the Cool Jude Youth Room

MONDAY, July 22

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, July 23

Morning Prayer at 9:00 a.m. in the Fireside Room Rental at 4:00 - 8:00 p.m. in the FLC and Kitchen Worship Ministry Meeting at 6:30 p.m. by Zoom Rental at 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. in Old Fellowship Hall

WEDNESDAY, July 24

Red Cross Blood Drive at 7:00 a.m. - 2:15 p.m. in the FLC

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

THURSDAY, July 25

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

FRIDAY, July 26

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

SATURDAY, JULY 27

200 Anniversary Celebration, Summer Shindig at 5:00 - 8:00 p.m. in the FLC

SUNDAY, July 28 - 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
- Just Come Anyway Book Club at 2:00 4:00 p.m. Location TBD

CELEBRATIONS!

Birthdays (July 14 - 28)

7/14 Richard Griswold

7/19 Steve Bradbury

7/19 William Ironside

7/21 Russell Sinisi

7/22 Meghan Appel

Anniversaries (July 14 - 28)

7/26 Cindy and Justin Malota

7/27 Nate and Cait May

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.

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Wethersfield United Methodist Church 150 Prospect Street Wethersfield, CT 06109