

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 28, 2024

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



Summer Worship

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

Worship Service at 9:30 a.m. in the FLC

“Pocketful of Miracles”

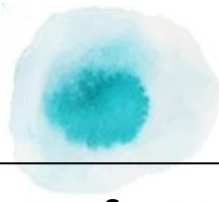
Sermon by Rev. Marion Hubbard

Please join us for an in-person Worship Service, led by Rev. Marion Hubbard, 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 in the right column.**

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, *Beth Warweg* will lead the Children's Moment, *Martha Arnold* will read Scripture and the *Choir* will sing during the Offertory.

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=XmVNCu6YKIQfebNzEtnyGhI3iSHnVu.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>

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. (Potluck side dishes will be provided by members and friends.) *Music is provided by Sunshine Entertainment, 860-899-9950.*



IN THIS WEEK'S CONNECTIONS



From the Pastor.....Page 3

We Pray for These Families.....Page 3

New Articles.....Pages 4

“Just Come Anyway” Book Club.....Page 4

Help Needed for Sunday Services.....Page 5

Items Needed for Our Craft Fair.....Page 5

Scarecrows on Main.....Page 5

A Beginning Handbell Group.....Page 6

Pumpkin Patch.....Page 6

“Buck A Book” Fundraiser.....Page 6

Summer Worship Hours.....Page 7

Wordly Women Summer Study.....Page 7

FUNDrive Event.....Page 8

200th Anniversary Celebration Corner.....Page 9

“Cool Jude” Memorial Golf Tournament.....Pages 10 - 11

Fellowship Coffee Hour.....Page 12

Learn to Play Mahjong.....Page 12

Creative Pastimes.....Page 12

Counters Needed.....Page 12

Church Calendar, Birthdays and Anniversaries.....Page 13

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 30 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, Jesus Christ,

I'm back. I was only gone for one week. Hope you didn't miss me too much. Gary Schaffrick did an excellent job of preaching while I was away. Thank you, Gary, for filling in for me. I know everyone was blessed by your presence.

July 1 brought me into a new and exciting world filled with such warm, caring people at the Wethersfield UMC. God has blessed me with all of you. It is my hope and prayer that, along with your help, I will be the spiritual leader God has called me to be for such a time as this. As time goes on, I hope to connect with each of you on a personal level. I look forward to us becoming good friends while bringing the love of Christ to this community and beyond.

My work days are as follows: I'm here on Sunday mornings of course. And, I am on schedule for Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday in the office from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., unless there is a meeting in the evening. Tuesday is busy with a prayer meeting at 10:00 a.m., preparing the bulletins, scheduling, writing a message for *Connections*, answering emails, phone calls and, yes, an occasional visitor or two. Wednesday and Thursday mornings are filled with lots of paperwork and scheduling to be done. However, I plan to visit on Wednesday afternoons. And on Thursday afternoons, I plan to have a set time for members to visit me in my office. All I ask is that you call first before coming to see me, to make sure I am not on an emergency call someplace else. Thank you.

One final note. Sunday afternoon, Monday, Fridays and most Saturdays are my days off, however, if there is an emergency, please feel free to call me. I am always available by my cell phone 203-241-9763. I do keep a calendar outside my office door. It should let you know my schedule for the week. In the meantime, stay warm and loving just the way God created you to be in this world.

God Bless All of you,

Pastor Marion

WE PRAY FOR THESE FAMILIES



Please keep the family of Nancy Sinha in your prayers. Nancy passed on July 11, 2024.



Please keep the Appel family in your prayers.
Lindsay Appel's mother, Audrey McNulty, passed on July 3, 2024

NEW ARTICLES



Altar Flowers, Sunday, July 28

On Sunday, July 28, the altar flowers are in honor of Betty Gaulton's 90th birthday, on July 30. They are given by the Creative Pastimes / Prayer Shawl Knitters Group, which has been blessed for many years with Betty's presence and generous production of hats, shawls, and baby blankets.

Bishop Thomas Bickerton

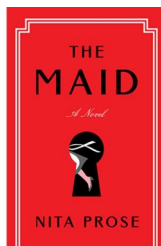
Our Bishop Thomas Bickerton is being appointed again to the New York Annual Conference and, also, the New England conference.

“JUST COME ANYWAY” BOOK CLUB



“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

There is a sign up sheet on the Community Connections board.

Help is needed setting up the chairs before service,
ushering and running the PowerPoint.

Reach out to Suzanne Neafus if you have any questions.

Thank you!

ITEMS NEEDED FOR OUR CRAFT TABLE

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!

SCARECROWS ON MAIN

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.



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)



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.

"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 \(paypal.com\)](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

SUMMER WORSHIP HOURS



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

July 14 - September 8:

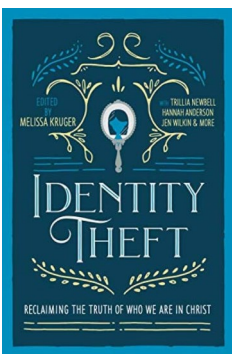
The service will be in the Family Life Center

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 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.



200th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION CORNER

Hartford Times Bulletin – October 9, 1941

“Wethersfield - All available fire apparatus in Wethersfield has been called for a serious fire at the Methodist Church on Main Street. A report from fire headquarters at 1:30 was that the building was badly damaged and the fire was not under control.” The October 10th edition reported that the roof was gutted when the fire climbed the space of the old wooden steeple which acted like a chimney and pulled the flames upward. Mrs. John McKee was preparing the annual fall supper in the kitchen at the back of the church and heard sounds of falling debris and saw smoke at the upper wall to the rest of the church and sounded the alarm. “While smoke filled the entire church and firemen poured water onto the flaming roof, Mrs. McKee went into the auditorium and removed the cross and candlesticks...The furniture in the parlor was also removed.”



“The parishioners of the church, undaunted by the excitement and trouble caused by the blaze, went ahead with plans for the annual supper.” The nearby Congregational Church invited them to use their parlor. A Rally Day Loyalty Service for worship that Sunday was held at the American Legion Hall. A newspaper notice from the Reverend Greene stated “By your attendance at this service you will give your church and pastor proof of your loyalty in this emergency.” A meeting was held there, after worship, to decide where to gather until repairs were made. The Governor Thomas Wells School (now the Keeney Center), the Congregational Chapel, the Episcopal Church, the Legion Hall, and the Sacred Heart Catholic Church all offered to make space available. The Wells School was chosen since it was closest to our church and had room for Sunday School classes as well.

The following week the election of trustees for the next year was held “by candlelight in the ruins of the church building. Rev. Greene stated that even if the church building lacked a roof and electric lighting, the election must be held there to make it legal.” The church was built in 1824 and remodeled in 1882 and 1937. Just that April the Sunday School ceiling was repaired and walls and floor refinished. Insurance provided \$4,000 for fire repairs and a decision was made to also enlarge the building to twice the before-fire size, with a 30-foot rear addition. Cost was estimated to be \$6,500. A campaign was launched to raise \$2,500. A Hubawi-sponsored minstrel show netted \$753. Building fund pledges and money provided by the Women’s Society for Christian Service promised to bring the fund total to \$7,727, so the board felt confident to build back bigger.

The agenda of a board meeting held at the parsonage on November 5, 1941 was mostly concerned with building repairs and expansion, and logistics of worship and Sunday School in a temporary location. However, in new business, the church was asked to donate to furnishings of a recreation room at the air base in Windsor Locks. Some thought “we should not give owing to our present circumstances, but Mrs. Templeton insisted we should not refuse and felt the ladies should be responsible for it.” A reminder to not let church property and business concerns distract us from why we are a church community.

The original goal was to return to our 130 Main St. church by Christmas, but the reality was we returned on Palm Sunday, on March 29, 1942. Only ten years later discussion began about building our 150 Prospect Street church, which became our new home in 1959. The newspaper articles referenced here are posted on the 200th anniversary bulletin board, in the hallway at the entrance to the Old Fellowship Hall.

"COOL JUDE" MEMORIAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

We're in the home stretch for Cool Jude 2024 registration. . .we also need commitments for auction items. Please go to the website to register and pay.

We have about 25 openings for golf.

www.cooljudegolftournament.com

One month and counting !!!

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

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 may meet 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!

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 26

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**

MONDAY, July 29

Wordly Women Bible Study at 9:30 - 11:00 a.m. in the Fireside Room
Rental at 4:00 - 6:30 p.m. in the FLC and Kitchen
Wordly Women Bible Study at 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. in the Fireside Room
Rental at 7:00 - 9:30 p.m. in the FLC

TUESDAY, July 30

Morning Prayer at 9:00 a.m. in the Fireside Room
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 31

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

THURSDAY, August 1

Creative Pastimes at 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. in the Fireside Room
Rental at 4:00 - 8:00 in the FLC and Kitchen
Bell Choir Practice at 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. in Old Fellowship Hall

FRIDAY, August 2

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

SUNDAY, August 4 - Worship Time is 9:30 a.m.

- **Summer Worship Service with Communion 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**

CELEBRATIONS!

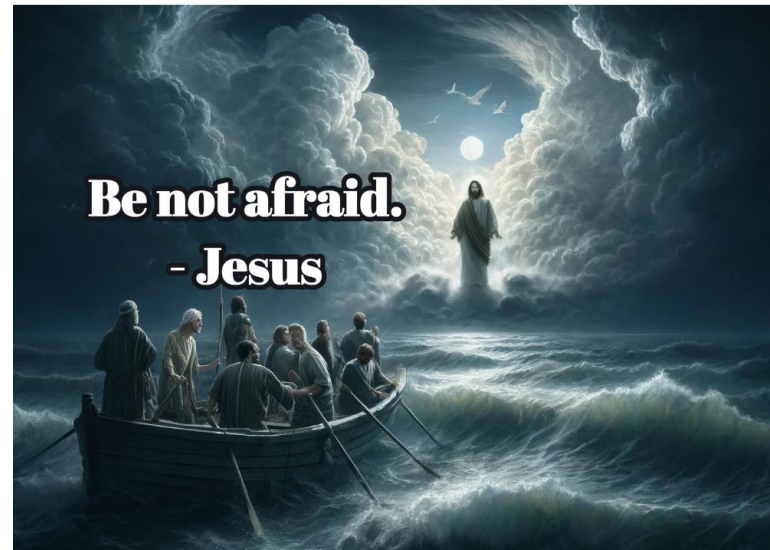
Birthdays (July 28 - August 4)

7/30 Betty Gaulton
7/30 Sarah Sabourin
8/1 Beth Warweg
8/4 Lester McGowan
8/4 Phyllis McKelvie

Anniversaries (July 28 - August 4)

7/31 Laurie and Craig Sullivan
8/3 Jason and Tracy Strickland

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