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.

August 25, 2024

Wethersfield United Methodist Church

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





Helmet of Salavation



Shield of Faith



Breastplate of Righteousness



Belt of Truth



Gospel Boots of Peace

"Put on the Whole Armor of God" | Sermon by Rev. Marion Hubbard

Summer Worship Service with Communion Holy Baptism, August 25, 2024 at 9:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary

Please join us for an in-person Worship Service, led by Rev. Marion Hubbard, in the Sanctuary and on Zoom!

For those who would prefer to stay at home and attend worship by Zoom, you will see our worship service in the Sanctuary! **The link for Zoom can be found 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, *Beth Warweg* will lead the Children's Moment, *Jan Ironside* will lead Joys and Concerns and *Deb Draizen* will read Scripture.

Please join us for Fellowship Coffee Hour at 10:30 - 11:30 a.m. in Old Fellowship Hall (OFH).



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

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Pastor: The Rev. Dr. Marion Ryan Hubbard

Older Adult Ministry: Jan Ironside Music Ministry: Michael Gowdy Office Administrator: Karen Rudewicz

Treasurer: Dawn Montenieri **Custodian:** Ryan O'Connor

THE CONNECTIONS NEWSLETTER

To give everyone enough time to read *Connections* before the weekend starts, we email it to you on Thursdays. The deadline for submitting articles for *Connections* is 9:00 a.m. on Tuesdays.

Tuesday, August 27 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,

I hope all of you are having a great week. I'm looking forward to seeing all of you on Sunday morning. All of us here at the church, have been working very hard behind the scenes to bring you meaningful Sunday services, especially this Sunday. For starters, we will be having a Holy Baptism along with Holy Communion this Sunday. We will also be having a Blessing of the Backpacks, which includes blessing our children and teachers as they start off the new school year with Christ at their side. You won't want to miss this worship service. It will be a great opportunity as every Sunday is to connect or reconnect with God and feel God's presence all around. This Sunday we will be finishing up our series on Ephesians with Putting on the Whole Armor of God. The Scripture this week is Ephesians 6:10-20. Feel free to read ahead and see if your thoughts agree with my thoughts allowing the Holy Spirit to work within each of us. God bless you all, see you Sunday.

Congregational Covenant – Wethersfield UMC 2022

We covenant together to create a community that supports one another, celebrates one another, and recognizes that each of us seeks to find in the body of Christ a place of safety, affirmation, and joy. Our communication will be guided by the biblical admonition to "speak the truth in love" (Ephesians 4:15), which means that we will express our convictions and feelings honestly, but also with sensitivity to the concerns of others.

We recognize that God calls us to different ministries and commitments. We will respect and support our church staff and all who accept office or commit themselves to the service of this church. When conflict or disagreement arises, we will address each other directly. We will speak with people, not about people. If direct conversation does not resolve a conflict, we will seek God's guidance and appropriate help whenever we find our own wisdom inadequate. We may not always come to an agreement, but we will respect the decision of the majority and strive to maintain unity in the spirit of Christian Love.

We covenant to pray together to sustain and deepen our love relationship with God, whom we cannot love without loving one another (John 13:34-35, 1 John 4:20-21). We affirm this covenant, trusting in God's power to enable us to live it with courage, love, and compassion.

God be with you all, Pastor Marion



Please keep Richard Brass' family in your prayers. Richard passed on August 1, 2024.

NEW ARTICLES

Summer Worship will be in the Sanctuary this Sunday

Starting this Sunday, August 25, we will be having our services in the Sanctuary, not the Family Life Center (FLC).

The floor is buckling in the FLC and is going to be repaired. Thank you.



Join Us This Sunday, August 25, for a Blessing of the Backpacks!

Teachers and Students - Bring your backpacks for a special back to school blessing given by Pastor Marion.

From Mike Gowdy, Music Ministry

The first Choir Practice is Thursday, August 29 at 7:00 p.m. All are welcome!



Homecoming Sunday, September 15, at 10:30 a.m. - A 200th Celebration Event The Installation of Rev. Dr. Marion Hubbard Sermon by Rev. Dr. Alpher Sylvester, District Superintendent

On September 15, our worship time changes to 10:30 a.m. and we will be in the Sanctuary. The worship service will include *District Superintendent Rev. Dr. Alpher Sylvester* delivering the sermon and the *Installation of our New Pastor, Rev. Dr. Marion Hubbard*. Following the service please join us for a hot dog/hamburger picnic.

In the next issue of Connections we will let everyone know what is needed for the picnic. Thank you.

'Word'ly Women Potluck

There will be a gathering of all 'Word'ly Women (past, present and future) at the church in the Old Fellowship Hall to share a potluck meal, enjoy fellowship and celebrate another season of Word'ly Women Bible study. This will take place on **September 9, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.** Bring a dish to share. Please, RSVP to Deb (dsdraizen@gmail.com) and let her know what you would like to bring. This is a chance to get the Morning and Evening groups together for fellowship and to, hopefully, meet some new women! All women interested in Bible study are encouraged to come and hear from other women why they are a part of the 'Word'ly Women small group Bible Study!

NEW ARTICLES



Dear Pastors and Churches of the Connecticut District,

In the wake of the recent storms, we know that there has been flooding and other damage throughout the state of Connecticut. Rev. Doris Dalton, Director of Connectional Ministries, oversees Disaster Response in the Conference. Rev. Inkoo Chung, New York - Connecticut District Superintendent, is covering for DS Sylvester while he is out of the office.

If you are aware of anyone who is in need of flood-related assistance, please reach out right away to Rev. Dalton (<u>DCM@nyac.com</u>), and copy Rev. Chung (<u>Inkoo.Chung@nyac-umc.com</u>) and Rev. Sylvester (Alpher.Sylvester@nyac-umc.com).

So deeply do we care for you that we are determined to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you have become very dear to us. (1 Thessalonians 2:8)

SCHOOL SUPPLIES NEEDED

I will be collecting school supplies during the month of August for *Interval House*, a shelter for abused women and their children in Hartford and for the *Learning Center at Adelbrook in Cromwell*. These children are under the autism spectrum. School supplies needed are crayons, markers, erasers, rulers, binders, wide ruled paper, glue, index cards, pencils, pens, etc. Items can be placed in the box on the table outside of the church office.

Many thanks for your support.

Betty Gaulton

TREE DEDICATION

Tree Dedication on September 8, 2024

As part of our celebration of the first Methodist church building, 200 years ago in Wethersfield, we donated a tree to the town. An oak tree was planted this spring on town property near our parking lot. A commemorative plaque will be unveiled at the site on September 8 after worship.

A SHRED-IT EVENT AT WUMC

We're having a Shred-it Event at WUMC on Saturday, September 7, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Please read below for more information.



An Opportunity for Communities to Take Steps to Help Prevent Identity Fraud While Helping the Planet

Community Shred-it Events help neighborhoods across North America promote identity theft protection through safe and secure personal document destruction. At these events, community members can bring in their documents for shredding by on-site teams for free or for a nominal fee. Shred-it branches hold their own events or partner with community groups to raise funds for various charitable causes.

Shredding and Identity Fraud



Identity Fraud Is ON THE RISE

In 2021, there were nearly 1.4 MILLION reports of identity theft received by the Federal Trade Commission (FTC).¹

This resulted in a loss of nearly \$1.5 BILLION.1



Shredding Can Help

Putting confidential documents in the trash can or dumpster can leave information exposed to criminals. Utilizing a secure shredding service, like a Shredit Community Event, can help ensure that private information remains safe from outsiders.

Fast Facts

Shred-it co-owns the GUINNESS WORLD RECORD for the most amount of paper collected in 24 hours at 898,931 LBS²

In a single day, one Community Shredit Event can serve as many as 2,000+
COMMUNITY MEMBERS and recycle more than 70 TONS OF PAPER³

What to Bring to a Shred-it Event

- Old Financial Documents
 If not needed for taxes, anything with financial information should be destroyed.
- Shipping Labels
 Shipping labels can have personal information including names and addresses.
- Photos
 Photos can be stolen and used for fake identification.
- Duplicates
 If information is saved on a computer or another document, copies should be shredded.

What NOT to Bring to a Shred-it Event

Hard Drives

These require a special destruction process that will not be offered at Community Shred-it Events.

Batteries

Seek guidance from your battery's producer to learn about secure disposal.

Medical Waste

Attend your local Drug Take Back Day event to dispose of pharmaceutical waste and contact your local government to learn about other medical waste disposal options.

Source: 1. Federal Trade Commission. Consumer Sentinel Network, 2021. 2. Guinness World Records, Most Paper Collected in 24 Hours. 2017. 3. Shred-it, Average Event, June 2022.





WORDLY WOMEN FALL STUDY



Wordly Women Fall Study: Revelation - Eternal King, Everlasting Kingdom, by Jen Wilkin

Perhaps no other book of the Bible feels as inaccessible and as intimidating to us as the very last one. The book of Revelation overflows with images and ideas that confound our modern ears. But if all Scripture is Godbreathed and profitable, we should assume Revelation is as accessible and helpful as any other book of the Bible. Why don't we see it that way?

Two thousand years ago, John's Revelation was circulated and read aloud among seven churches in Asia Minor. Those who heard the letter understood it and drew encouragement from its message. The same can be true for you today. Over 10 sessions of verse-by-verse Bible study, Jen Wilkin helps you discover how the last book of the Bible—the culmination of God's great story—speaks both a steadying word of assurance and a strong call to endure to the church in every age.

All women of the church are invited to join the "Word"ly Women Fall Bible Study. The sessions will consist of a video teaching and time for discussion. Each week there are 5 days of independent homework. We meet on Mondays for 10 sessions. (starting on September 16, 2024 through November 18, 2024). There is a Morning Class from 9:15 -10:45 a.m. and an Evening Class from 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. The classes are held in the Fireside Room. The sign-up sheet is posted on the Community Connections Board. Please, purchase the work book for this study before the first class (available on Amazon.com and Lifeway.com). Whether you are new to Bible study or a longtime student of the Word come join us in this study of the Book of Revelation!

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!

SUMMER WORSHIP HOURS



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

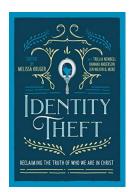
August 25 - September 8: The service will be in the Sanctuary

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 authorsincluding 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 on August 26, in the morning at 9:30 - 11:00 a.m. and in the evening at 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. Please, contact Deb Draizen if you have questions or need more information (<u>dsdraizen@gmail.com</u> 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.

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 room 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.

200th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION CORNER

Our Church History on Permanent Display

There are many things here at Wethersfield United Methodist Church (WUMC) that relate to our 200 years. Most valuable are the records, some written ones deteriorating and difficult to read, more recent printed ones, and computer files. They provide the dates and details of decisions made and projects undertaken or hoped-for visions. Some things in the WUMC "museum" are readily available to see, touch, sit on or use that link us to centuries as a church. The 200th anniversary symbol has been the brownstone cornerstone from the Main Street church with the April 18, 1824 inscription still discernible. It serves as a bench between the gazebo and memorial garden.



Inside the narthex is a chair that was used in the chancel of that church, and two of these original chairs are still used in Temple Beth Torah's (TBT's) worship area. We sold our first church building to TBT in 1960. We were welcomed there to visit this past April as part of the 200th anniversary celebration. A glass-enclosed case rests atop what had been the Main Street pulpit. Inside it are three Books of Remembrance listing members honored by memorial gifts mostly used to fund the furnishing of the Prospect Street church. A framed poster of historic sketches of the Main Street building hangs beside the chair. It was a gift from that synagogue, and a copy also hangs there.

Displayed on that same narthex wall are two bronze plaques naming donors to our last organ installed at Main Street. On the opposite wall hangs the ceremonial shovel used for the groundbreakings of the Prospect Street church in 1958 and Family Life Center in 2004. It is inscribed with pastors' names and dates. I suspect there are crosses, candlestick holders, bibles and other items used in both churches, but not so documented.

Generations of worshipers have made WUMC endure these two centuries. My review of church records indicates far fewer multigenerational families these days. Many of members' children leave the geographic area as young adults or join different faith communities. This makes these church items even more precious as we remember, rejoice and rededicate as WUMC enters a third century.



"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)

"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

"COOL JUDE" MEMORIAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

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!

JUBILEE HOUSE

Jubilee House

Some toys from our church's former preschool have been donated to Hartford's House of Bread Jubilee House. This south end facility serves refugees and immigrants and the toys are used in the Mommy and Me English Language Program. There are some photos of the children enjoying the toys on the mission bulletin board. If you want information about volunteering as a one-on-one English tutor with an adult at JH (Jubilee House) please contact Gerry or Grace Hayes.



FELLOWSHIP COFFEE HOUR

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

From Betty: I am asking for goodies as follows:

First Sunday
Second Sunday
Last names starting with A-C
Last names starting with D-I
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. Contact Deb Draizen (<u>dsdraizen@gmail.com</u>) if you have any questions. Men and women. . .high schoolers to seniors. . .all are welcome!

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.

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.





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 <u>weedd721@aol.com</u> (860)-707-6636

CALENDAR

Please note: The information in this calendar is based on the online calendar as of August 22.

SUNDAY, August 25 - 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.
 Holy Baptism
- Fellowship Coffee Hour at 10:30 11:30 a.m. in Old Fellowship Hall

MONDAY, August 26

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

TUESDAY, August 27

Morning Prayer at 10:00 a.m. in the Fireside Room Rental at 4:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. Worship Meeting at 6:00 p.m. by Zoom Rental at 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. in Old Fellowship Hall

WEDNESDAY, August 28

Rental at 4:00 - 8:00 p.m.

THURSDAY, August 29

Rental at 4:00 - 8:00

Choir Rehearsal at 7:00 - 8:00 p.m., Music Room

FRIDAY, August 30

Rental at 2:00 - 6:00 p.m. in the Music Room Rental at 4:00 - 8:00 p.m.

SATURDAY, August 31

Rental at 2:00 - 6:00 p.m. in the Music Room

SUNDAY, September 1 - 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

CELEBRATIONS!

Birthdays (August 25 - September 1)

8/25 Carol Bockstael

8/30 Colin Armour, Jr.

9/1 Pastor John

9/1 Cheryl Tafas

Anniversary (August 25 - September 1)

8/31 Tim and Beth Warweg

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

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Wethersfield United Methodist Church 150 Prospect Street Wethersfield, CT 06109