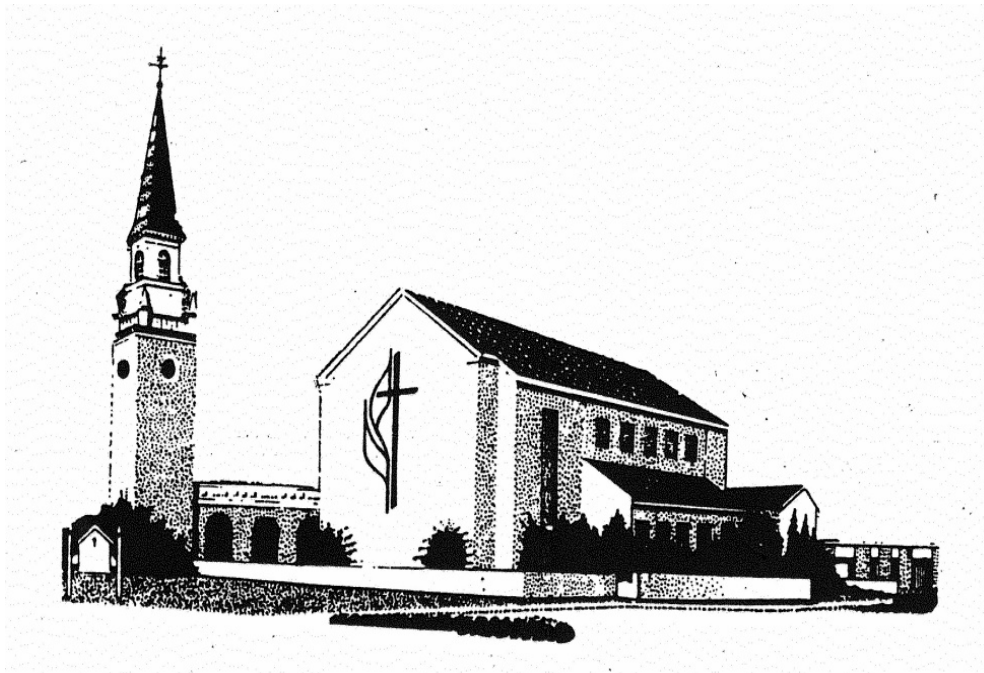


THE GOOD NEWS
From The
Stratford United Methodist Church

2600 MAIN STREET • STRATFORD, CT 06615-5893
SUMC phone: 203-375-5851 ~ fax: 203-375-6890

SUMC & Good News email: secretary@sumcct.org
SUMC website: www.sumcct.org

JUNE 2024



The Rev. Suhee Kim, Pastor
Affiliated Pastors: Rev. Caroly Gibson,
Rev. George Hilton, Rev. James Stinson
Chris Muller, Director of Music
Beth Buckmir, Preschool Director
Church Office: Beth Sullivan, Secretary

SUNDAY SCHOOL SCHEDULE



June

2nd - NO SUNDAY SCHOOL

9th - Sunday School Sunday - LAST WEEK



Sunday School will participate in the service; sandwiches and sundaes will be provided during
Coffee Hour

CELEBRATION OF GRADUATED SUNDAY, JUNE 2ND

We want to celebrate the achievements of our graduates on June 2nd.

Jayden, who runs our media and worship live-streaming every Sunday, is also graduating this year. If you would like to donate to his graduation gift, please put your donation in the envelope provided in the Sunday bulletin. Donations can also be given directly to Robyn Oliver.



This is a surprise, so please don't let him know!

Celebration

On June 2, our church will celebrate our students graduating from High School, College, Trade Schools, and internships - moving on to new opportunities and possibilities. It is a great time for our Church Family to show our love and support. Indeed we are blessed.

It may also be an opportunity to express gratitude and to remember those who will not have a graduation or any educational options available to them.

Ms. Shabana Basij-Rasikh , the keynote speaker at Commencement Exercises at Roger Williams University shared her story on May 17, 2024. In 2021 the Taliban closed her School for girls in Afghanistan. She courageously evacuated her school Community to another country where it now exists as the only boarding school for Afghan girls in the world. These girls will be educated against all odds.

Ms. Basij-Rasikh is the winner of many awards including the Malalai Medal for promoting access to education for girls and was named one of CNN's International Leading Women to mention just a few. Her work on behalf of girls and women will most certainly change lives. Prayers for her work and ALL "seekers" of education. Celebrate!



Stratford Community Conversations

As You Know - All Stratford residents, businesspeople, community leaders, government leaders and staff, and others are invited. Topics are generated by attendees. No reservations are required, and there is no charge to attend.

Please join us, and bring a friend if you would like.

The program runs on Wednesdays from 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Upcoming Dates

June 5th

Unitarian Universalist Church, 275 Huntington Road

June 26th

Our Lady of Peace Church, 651 Stratford Road

Neighborhood Breakfast

The Neighborhood Breakfast is **every third Saturday at SUMC**. Eat-in breakfast will be served from 8:30am to 10am. Guests will be greeted at the back parking lot entrance. We would greatly appreciate your help serving breakfast, donating items, or your time, if you can. If you are interested in helping, send a message to missions@sumcct.org.

Next month's breakfast will be Saturday, June 15th.

**Please donate breakfast items such as fruit, granola bars, muffins, yogurt, etc.
Thank you for your donations!**

Toiletry Items are Being Accepted!

Our team has been sharing donated toiletry items with guests who attend our monthly Neighborhood Breakfast. These items are greatly appreciated, and we could use more donations to offer at breakfasts in the months ahead.

There is a donation bin located in the narthex, and both men's and women's items are being accepted. We will gladly accept any size item (full size, samples, etc.). Donations suggestions include (but are not limited to): soap, shampoo/conditioner, toothpaste/toothbrush, deodorant, razors/shaving cream, lotion, tissues, and feminine products.

Golden Hill UMC Community Supper - Volunteers Needed

The Golden Hill United Methodist Church in downtown Bridgeport is one of several Bridgeport churches that provide evening meals for those in need on different evenings of the week. Golden Hill hosts a meal every Wednesday. They provide the food, the location, and the planning. Others volunteer to provide the labor.

Our upcoming turn at Golden Hill UMC Community Supper is Wednesday, June 19th,

A cook and about 3 additional volunteers will be needed to start around 2:30 - 3:00 to prepare the meals. One to two volunteers will be needed to stay and help pack the meals from 5:30 on. Please contact Pat Knebel (pknebel@yahoo.com) if you are interested in volunteering.

A NOTE FROM PAT:

For many years, Stratford UMC has been on preparation duty six times a year. Working from 3 pm to about 5 pm, we prep and cook. Since COVID, they have been handing out grab-and-go bags, still with a hot meal, but to many fewer guests, so fewer volunteers are needed. When they are able to go back to serving a sit-down meal to a full hall of people, we will probably be looking to recruit some new additional volunteers. We'll let you know. – Pat Knebel

The Lord's Kitchen

The next Lord's Kitchen will be on Monday, June 17th.

Music Program News



Choir News

The Choir will be singing through Sunday, June 9th.
I want to thank them for all the beautiful music this year.

I personally want to thank everyone for their prayers, cards and support during my absence due to some unexpected health issues. I'm looking forward to being back on the organ bench on June 2nd.

We are still seeking new Choir members and Handbell Choir members for the fall. If you know someone who loves to sing or reads music, or would like to try playing the handbells, please let them know!

If you have an interest in joining or have questions please stop by and speak to Chris after worship or send an email to music.director@sumcct.org. Required rehearsal times are flexible. There is also an option to sign up to participate in the seasonal Advent/Christmas and/or Palm Sunday/Easter choir.

Support our Music Program

If you would like to support the music program, donations can be made to the Church with a note/notation intending their direct support of this important ministry.

Your support allows us to hire extra musicians and singers for special events such as our seasonal Cantatas (Palm Sunday and Christmas) and Easter services.

Thank you!
Chris Muller, Director of Music

Hello, I'm a newcomer to your church:

You cannot know the reason I am here this morning. It may be as simple as a move to your community or as complicated as a personal crisis that leads me to seek strength from God. In either case, I am here. I will probably remain here and come back to worship with you next Sunday and the Sunday after that if you will do something for me. Won't you please?

Smile at me as I walk in your door. You are my first impression of the church, and this impression will probably stay with me for a long time.

Speak to me. I know you want to see your friends and settle that piece of committee business, but I may find it hard to believe that you truly care for "the stranger in your midst"!

Tell me good things about your church and minister. I want to believe that I have come to some place where people love each other and where they believe that they are doing something exciting and important for the Lord!

Notice me if I am not a family. I don't want to feel invisible just because I am unmarried, a single parent, a teenager or an elderly person.

Talk to me again the second week when I come back, and the third and the fourth. I am still not a part of your church family. Please don't feel you have "done your duty" by me just because you made a point of greeting me the first week I was here.

Invite me to become part of some church group or organization. I need more than worship each Sunday. I need to know that I am accepted and affirmed by the group of people within the church who know me by my first name and who care about me as an individual.

For "starters" invite me to coffee hour after church. If I accept, look for me at the conclusion of the service and introduce me to others.

If you can find it in your heart to do these things for me, **I will come back** ... the second Sunday, the third... and maybe forever! I will worship with you. I may find Christ for the first time and make a commitment to Him! I will see what it is like for Christians to live and work together.

Author Unknown

P.S. If you do these things ... you will make me believe your sign, that this is indeed a church of:

Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors!

Friendship Quilt on Display Through June



A Friendship Quilt made by a committee of quilters led by Edith Cornelius and Ethel Kimball was presented to the Rev. Arthur and Ethel Tedcastle in 1972 in celebration of the new sanctuary. Congregational members were invited to purchase a 6" cotton white or blue square for \$1.00, sign their names and elaborate as they wished. The signatures and designs were embroidered by the purchasers themselves or by a committee member. Then they were pieced together into the quilt and the quilt was tied. The center features an embroidered picture of the newly built church, taken from the architectural drawing as in fact the bell tower had not yet been built in 1972.

The Historical Committee will be displaying the quilt in the narthex for all to see through June; there are 14 rows of squares, with a total count of 152 squares. An alphabetical list of the names is available so you can find your name.



A Note from the Garden Club



Please drive around to the back of the church and enjoy the flowering Flox, Iris, Lilacs, Dusty Miller and Azaleas that are blooming this spring.



**Beach Afternoon Hosted by Mary Taylor
Memorial UMC
Silver Sands State Park, Milford
Saturday, June 22nd
2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.**

Games

Sand Sculpting

Supper Provided Entrance is free with a CT
registered vehicle

We hope to see you there



**Bible Study is held every Tuesday at 2:00 p.m. on
Zoom.**

**We are currently reading and discussing the book
*Really Bad Girls of the Bible:
More Lessons from Less-Than-Perfect Women*
by Liz Curtis Higgs**

Join Zoom Meeting:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2160664239?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2160664239?pwd=K3U5b21WS0duQ2VIOXRQM0gvRUtPd09&omn=86183795830)

[pwd=K3U5b21WS0duQ2VIOXRQM0gvRUtPd09&omn=86183795830](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2160664239?pwd=K3U5b21WS0duQ2VIOXRQM0gvRUtPd09&omn=86183795830)

Meeting ID: 216 066 4239 / Passcode: 06614

Arts & Crafts



Arts and Crafts finished this this season meeting with a bring a salad luncheon with wonderful salads to choose from and a variety of desserts. We enjoyed great food and conversation and are looking forward to starting up in the fall.



STERLING HOUSE

Food Donations for the [Sterling House Food Pantry](#) are always being collected in the bins in the narthex. Visit their [Food Pantry Donation Page](#) for lists of needed items and a link to their Amazon Wish List.

INCIDENTS AND HAPPENINGS OUT OF OUR PAST

What do you know about our church?

1. What powered the motor which operated the organ in the 1903 sanctuary?
2. Where did the congregation worship after the third church was torn down? Bonus point for how long we worshipped there.
3. Whose heart was strangely warmed at a religious meeting in Aldersgate Street on May 24, 1738?
4. Name 3 missions and/or benevolent ministries that our congregation supports?
5. Who was the longest serving minister? Hint: there is a chapel named after him.
6. What are the 5 liturgical colors that appear throughout the year on the altar cloths and banners?
7. At what times and on what days does our church bell ring out over the neighborhood?
8. How many years have Methodists been worshipping in Stratford?
9. How many individual pieces of property were combined to form the property we now hold at 2600 Main Street.
10. What iconic symbol is on the 2 facades of the church buildings?
11. Which President sent a letter to the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church expressing his gratitude for the church's support with nurses, soldiers, and prayers?
12. What appears on the top of the Church Steeple weathervane?

Answers:

1. Water piped in from the water main in the street. During a drought a boy was paid to pump the organ instead.
2. 6 1/3 Years. From August 1966 to December 1972 the congregation worshipped in the Parish Hall, aka the Fellowship Hall or, the Gym.
3. John Wesley.
4. Neighborhood Breakfast, ASP, Lord's Kitchen, Heaven Sent Thrift Shop, Heifer, Food Pantry, Community Suppers, UMCOR, Student Sunday, Native American Sunday, etc.
5. Rev. Melville S. Bulmer, 1935-1960.
6. Red, white, blue, green, purple.
7. Bells ring every day at noon, and on Sunday before 10 am service.
8. 1790 – 2024: 234 years.
9. 7 pieces of property.
10. Cross and Flame, the logo of the United Methodist Church from the 1968 merger of the Methodist Church and the Evangelical United Brethren Church.
11. Abraham Lincoln. March 18, 1864.
12. A Circuit Rider, or an itinerant preacher, like Jesse Lee, the first Methodist clergyman to preach in Stratford.

Be
Kind

Be
AMAZING



© Mary Lou Troutman

BE GRATEFUL

Hope all in our church family had an enjoyable Memorial weekend. Those of us who were able to attend the Trinity May 26th 10 AM service were treated to a wonderful surprise. We had a special treat by Meade Love, for the prelude she taught us the words and to sing the hymn below with the words attributed to John Wesley. Then for the Postlure she accompanied us with her flute to sing the hymn. We were also provided with the wonderful word to take home with us. A big thanks to Mead Love for giving us that gift.

3117

Rule of Life

Moderately slow (♩ = 88)

Do all the good you can, by all the means you can,

in all the ways you can, in all the places you can,

at all the times you can, to all the people you can,

as long as ev - er you can.

Words & Song 3117
 H0406: 18th cent. aphorism, esp. in John Wesley
 MUSIC FROM THE LIFE, by Edward Bennett, etc. by Cynthia White



Strawberry Pretzel Surprise (Salad).

Originally in the UMW Cookbook as Jello Surprise, submitted by Jean Lanz.
Prepared for Arts and Crafts Salad Luncheon by Pat Knebel

Base: 2 ½ cups (8 oz bag) of salted pretzels, crushed
¾ cup butter, melted
3 tablespoons sugar

Cream filling: 1 cup sugar	or	1 cup sugar
8 oz. cream cheese		8 oz. cream cheese
2 cups (8 oz.) cool whip		1 envelope whipped topping (Dream Whip)
		½ cup cold milk
		1 teaspoon vanilla

Fruit layer: 2 cups boiling water
1 large (6 oz.) package of strawberry Jello
Large bag, 32 oz, of frozen strawberries (or strawberry, blueberry, raspberry mix, or any combo of berries, even peaches. Strawberry and Blueberry are great for 4th of July.)

Crush pretzels, add melted butter and sugar. Spread in greased 9" x 13" pan.
Bake at 357° for 8 minutes. Let cool.

Cream together the sugar and cream cheese. When smooth add the cool whip, or whipped topping prepared as to package directions with vanilla.
Spread on the cooled pretzel base. Allow to set and prepare Jello.

Add the 2 cups of boiling water to the strawberry Jello. Stir to dissolve. Add frozen bag of berries, stir, and let stand until starts to thicken. About 10-15 minutes.
Pour over the cream mixture.
Refrigerate about 2 hours or overnight.



Hosts Needed!

**Come and sign up to host Coffee Hour and help with this amazing fellowship opportunity!
Sign up sheets are located on the table in the narthex.**



April 19 to 21 about 40 sisters from across the New York Conference gathered in Providence, Rhode Island with other members from across our Jurisdiction for the Northeastern Jurisdiction United Women in Faith meeting. We spent the 3 days worshipping, singing, learning, sharing time with new and old friends, and raising funds for Mission Giving and the Legacy Fund. We were inspired and challenged by keynote speakers Sally Vonner, General Secretary/CEO of United Women in Faith, and Bishop Vashti Murphy McKenzie, President/General Secretary of the National Council of Churches.

At this quadrennial event, Hazel McIntosh (*New York*) was re-elected to the National Board of Directors for the 2025-2028 quadrennium. Hazel is a member of the unit at Grace St. Albans United Methodist Church and served on the United Women in Faith Finance Committee during the 2021-2024 quadrennium. Hazel joins Mikele H. Delmore (*Baltimore-Washington*), Deaconess Allison Francesco (*Susquehanna*) and Yvonne Bouknight (*Greater New Jersey*) as one of the four Directors elected from our Jurisdiction to serve.

In addition, Deaconess Gail Douglas-Boykin (*New York*) and Franchesca Marcellus (*New York*), were elected to the Northeastern Jurisdiction Leadership Team. Deaconess Gail most recently served as Vice President of the 2021-2024 Northeastern Jurisdiction Leadership Team and Franchesca is a young woman who is being nurtured by the unit at Vandevener Park United Methodist Church where Deaconess Gail is also a member. Congratulations Hazel, Gail and Franchesca!

2025-2028 Northeastern Jurisdiction Leadership Team:

President, Deaconess Gail Douglas-Boykin, (*New York*)

Vice President, Sue Zahorbenski, (*Greater New Jersey*)

Secretary, Sheila Rader, (*Upper New York*)

Treasurer, Kay Williams, (*West Virginia*)

Nominations Chair, Sandra Wilson (*Eastern Pennsylvania*)

Nominations Committee Members

Rita Green, (*Baltimore Washington*)

Franchesca Marcellus, (*New York*)

Betty Shippee, (*New England*)

Sue Reisinger, (*Susquehanna*)

To learn more about United Women in Faith, check out the National website: [United Women in Faith | Love in Action \(uwfaith.org\)](https://www.uwfaith.org). There you can learn about current social justice actions, listen to previous *Faith Talks* podcasts or *Voices From the Field* broadcasts which highlight the work of United Women Faith supported National Mission Institutions and United Women in Faith groups across the globe. If you sign up for a member login, even more resources are available.

A Thank You from Stefanie Knight

Dear SUMC Family:

I wanted to take this opportunity to thank you all for the emails, calls, cards and flowers you have sent since I became sick in March. They have brought me a lot of peace and joy on my healing journey. I am so grateful to be part of the SUMC family. I'm pleased to report my surgery went well and I am on the road to recovery. I hope to see you all soon.

Thank you again from the bottom of my heart!

~ Stefanie

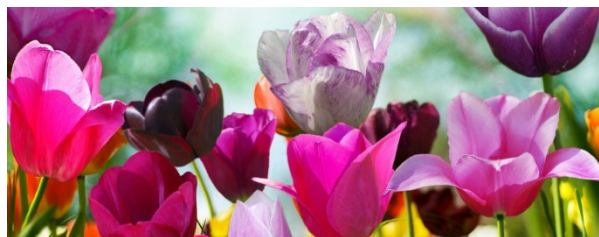


I want to thank everyone for the cards, support and prayers during my recent illness. They brought me great joy. I am looking forward to when I will be able to be with you in church again.

June Evetts



Altar Flowers



Automatic altar flower orders are ongoing. Contributions towards our dedicated flower fund are always welcome and greatly appreciated!

If you would like to make an altar flower dedication, please contact JoAnn Schiff at (203) 513-0514 .

NEARER, MY GOD, TO THEE

N	O	K	C	E	B	L	G	N	E	V	A	E	H	G
C	M	C	R	F	L	C	N	N	V	M	C	C	Y	N
D	T	R	R	I	N	L	I	O	O	H	U	C	G	I
V	S	O	T	D	Y	E	W	G	T	S	R	I	A	K
G	E	S	S	H	N	A	V	E	F	E	A	P	P	A
L	D	S	D	U	G	V	S	I	M	N	W	R	P	W
U	N	T	U	M	N	I	Q	U	G	L	E	O	E	T
F	E	H	O	J	A	N	R	E	R	R	J	T	A	P
Y	S	O	S	R	J	G	L	B	E	V	P	R	R	R
O	N	U	T	O	Z	S	M	D	R	E	A	M	S	A
J	U	G	O	K	Y	Y	N	S	A	W	E	U	W	I
G	T	H	N	E	G	A	U	I	E	S	T	A	R	S
J	C	T	E	O	W	S	S	E	N	K	R	A	D	E
I	A	S	D	R	A	W	P	U	Z	B	N	S	F	Z

ANGELS	APPEAR	BECKON	BRIGHT
CLEAVING	CROSS	DARKNESS	DREAMS
GIVEN	HEAVEN	JOYFUL	MERCY
MOON	MY GOD	NEARER	PRAISE
RAISETH	SENDEST	SONG	STARS
STILL	STONE	SUN	THOUGHTS
UPWARD	WAKING	WANDERER	WING