

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

MAY 2025



The Rev. Suhee Kim, Pastor
Student Pastor: Abby Langford
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
Worship Technology: Jayden Zeleznik



MAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

May 4th

No 8:15 a.m. Chapel Service; 10:00 a.m. Worship Service
Sunday School Meets

May 11th

8:15 a.m. Chapel Service and 10:00 a.m. Worship Service
No Sunday School

May 18th

8:15 a.m. Chapel Service and 10:00 a.m. Worship Service
Sunday School Meets

May 25

8:15 a.m. Chapel Service and 10:00 a.m. Worship Service
Sunday School Meets
Baptism of Kaylee Martin and Anthony Elijah Martin, Jr.



May 4th - Sunday School

May 11th - Mother's Day - No Sunday School

May 18th - Sunday School

May 25th - Memorial Day weekend - Sunday School

June 1st - Sunday School Sunday - Penny Fair - Ice Cream Social

Please join us June 1st for Sunday School Sunday as we wrap up the 2024 - 2025 Sunday School Year. Children and Youth will play an active part in the 10:00am service and we will announce the final total of our Heifer Campaign. Please join us after service for an Ice Cream Social during Coffee Hour as well as the Penny Fair. Proceeds from the Penny Fare will be donated to the 2025 ASP Trip.



at SUMC!

Join us for our **Methodist Youth Fellowship** project at the Greater Bridgeport **CROP WALK for Hunger**, benefitting area food pantries!

The MYF has formed the SUMC Food Runners Team for the annual Crop Walk on Sunday, May 4th. To make a donation or sign up to walk with us, please visit our website at <https://events.crophungerwalk.org/crophungerwalks/team/sumc-food-runners> or see Stefanie Knight on Sunday during coffee hour.

Crop Walk - 5/4 @ 1:30 p.m.

United Congregational Church
2200 North Ave., Bridgeport
Ride Share can be arranged

Session 2 - 5/10

Stratford United Methodist Church
Youth Group meeting to plan Summer Project

Bring a friend. All are welcome!

Send an email to Stefanie Knight:
stefanieknight01@gmail.com to join.



Pen Pal Program

We are pleased to be kicking off our intergenerational pen pal program this month. Please stay for coffee hour on Sunday, May 4th to meet your Pen Pal!



Easter
Bunny
photo



April 6th - Confirmation Sunday





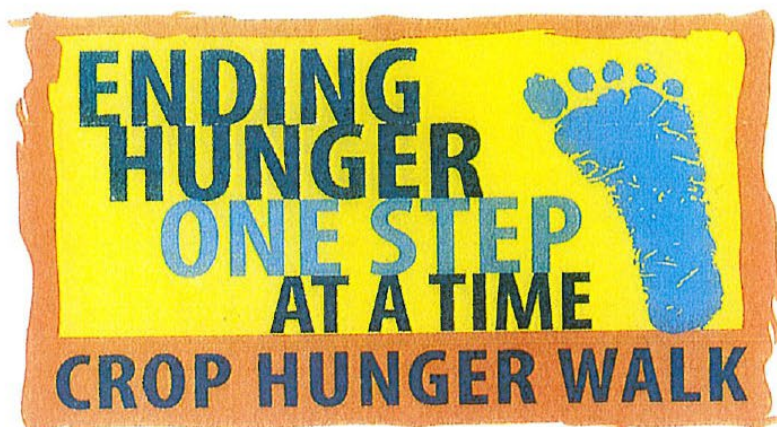


Walk With Us ... It's Our 51st!



Pick up materials on
Sunday, March 30, 2025 at 2 PM at
CROP Rally

**HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
406 White Plains Road, Trumbull, CT**



CROP Hunger Walk – It's our 51st!

Sunday, May 4, 2025

at 1:30 – 4:00 pm for 2+ mile walk (Rain or Shine)

**Beginning at United Congregational Church
2200 North Avenue, Bridgeport, CT**

25 % of monies raised goes to hunger related programs in the Bridgeport Area.

For more info, call 203-375-1284 or go to www.crophungerwalk.org/bridgeportct





Choir News

**We are always looking for members for the Choir and
Grace Notes Handbell Choir.**

**If you or someone you know loves to sing, can read music,
or would like to learn to play the handbells, please join us!**

I want to thank the Choirs for their wonderful music all through lent.

If you play an instrument, please share your talents with us in worship!
An audition is required.

If you have questions, please speak to Chris after worship or email music.director@sumcct.org.

Required rehearsal times are flexible. Rehearsals are on Thursday evenings, and pieces are rehearsed several weeks in advance of presentation in worship.

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



Arts and Crafts will be going out to lunch on Wednesday May 14. Meet at 1 pm at the Fire Engine Pizza Co. 768 Bridgeport Ave. in Shelton. Please RSVP to Phebe Kirkham, 203-377-7826.

Thank you.
Phebe

INCIDENTS AND HAPPENINGS

OUT OF OUR PAST

Susanna Wesley—Mother of “Methodism”

Susanna Wesley has been called the Mother of Methodism. First, because she was the mother of John Wesley, the founder of Methodism. Secondly, because she was the driving force behind the “method” in Methodism.

Susanna and her husband Samuel Wesley had 19 children, with 10 surviving to adulthood, 7 girls and 3 boys. Susanna’s life was not always easy though the couple had a loving marriage and she fiercely defended Samuel. He was often in debt as neither had any capital or dowry funds; the church “living” was inadequate; business ventures including raising crops failed; Samuel’s writing did not yield much extra money. Samuel eventually served time in debtor’s prison. Susanna, a deeply pious woman, did not always agree with Samuel’s religious thoughts and practices. They sometimes quarreled with each other, and with his parishioners. The fire that broke out in and destroyed the parsonage at Epworth in 1709 may have in fact been set by disgruntled folk. That fire broke up their household for months scattering the children to friends and relatives, exposing them to other influences, much to Susanna’s chagrin, until another home was found.

Susanna was herself the youngest of 23 children, and probably learned much from her own mother about raising children and keeping order. From the time of their birth Susanna’s children were reared, with the help of nurse maids, to cry quietly, and sleep at designated hours. There were 3 mealtimes a day, no snacks, and the children were expected to eat what was put in front of them. Susanna educated each and every one of her children. On their 5th birthday she would spend the day with that child, teaching them the alphabet. The following day they learned to read. Writing soon followed. During the week, each child had an hour with her, exclusively their own. Susanna was certainly methodical in her child rearing. And later in life, with her children scattered, Susanna spent two hours a day, one in the morning, one in the evening, and sometimes one at noon, in prayer and self-examination.

Sons John and Charles were products of Susanna’s child-rearing methods, her desire for order, her devotion. Susanna gathered women in her home for religious instruction, which was considered unorthodox. It was just the kind of thing her sons John and Charles would do in their Holy Club, begun while they were at Oxford University, gathering folks for instruction and religious ceremonies outside the walls of the established church. They had certain rules and practices that they followed that soon made them the objects of ridicule. They were criticized for their emphasis on serving their neighbors and the lower classes by visiting the sick and imprisoned, taking care of widows and orphans. They met methodically every week for prayer, reflection, confession and support. They preached out of doors. They were called Bible moths, the Holy Club, sacramentarians, enthusiasts, supererogation men (doing more than what is necessary for salvation), and methodists. Fortunately for us, Methodist is the name that stuck.



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, May 17th.

**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 June 18th.

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.

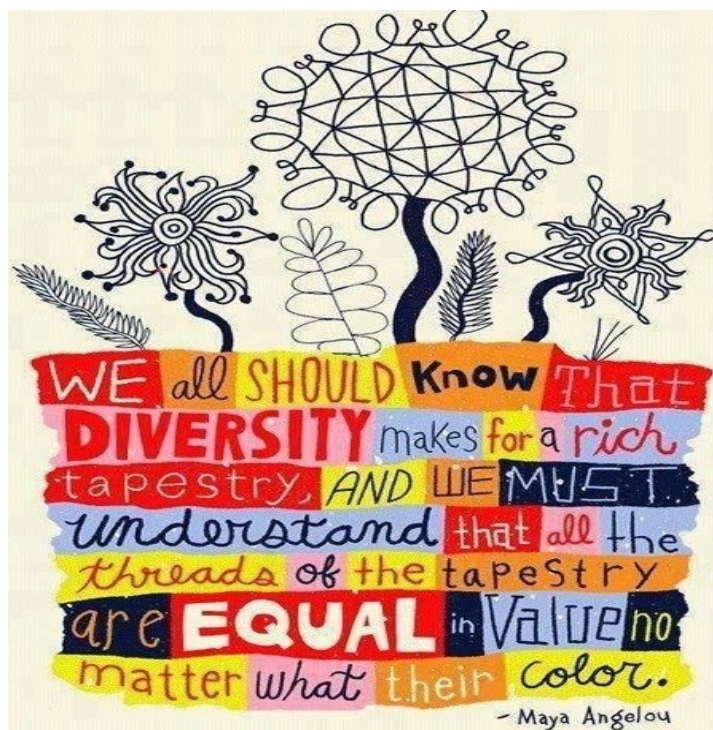
The Lord's Kitchen

The next Lord's Kitchen will be on Monday, June 16th.

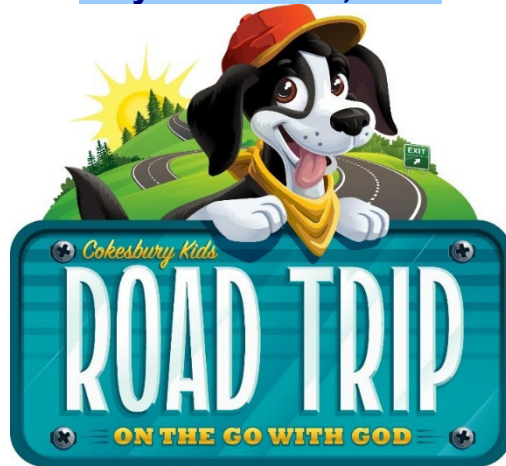


Friedrich Gustav Emil Martin Niemöller was a German theologian and Lutheran pastor. He is best known for his opposition to the Nazi regime during the late 1930s and for his 1946 quote "First they came ...".

**"First they came for the communists,
and I did not speak out - because I was not a communist.
Then they came for the socialists,
and I did not speak out – because I was not a socialist.
Then they came for the trade unionists,
and I did not speak out – because I was not a trade unionist.
Then they came for the Jews,
and I did not speak out – because I was not a Jew.
Then they came for me –
and there was no one left to speak for me."**



**Nichols UMC Vacation Bible School
July 7th to 11th, 2025**



Take a road trip with SUMC this summer as we join Nichols UMC for Vacation Bible School! This year's theme is Road Trip: On the Go with God, where travelers will explore timeless Bible stories that teach us how “the LORD your God is with you wherever you go” (Joshua 1:9). VBS will take place Monday, July 7th through Friday, July 11th from 5:30-7:45 pm for children entering PreK-4 through entering 6th grade at Nichols UMC in Trumbull, CT.

Are you interested in volunteering for VBS? We welcome any help to make this a memorable experience for children in our community!

Contact Pastor Abby Langford (337-256-9095 or abby.langford@yale.edu) for more information about registration or volunteering.



Rev. Paul Fleck, Executive Director of Immigration Law and Justice, about Why Immigration matters to United Methodists. Rev. Fleck tells some great stories that illustrate why immigration justice matters to us, and what we can do about it. Check out the interview:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=97YxL3ZVHas>

For more articles and information about immigration justice and United Methodism, visit:

<https://www.resourceumc.org/en/topics/advocacy/immigration-and-global-migration>

Christianity

Word Search



APOSTLES
 BAPTISM
 BIBLE
 CATHOLIC
 CHRISTIANITY
 CREEDS
 CROSS
 GOSPEL
 JESUS

JOHN
 LARGEST
 LUKE
 MARK
 MATTHEW
 MESSIAH
 MONOTHEISTIC
 NAZARETH
 NEW TESTAMENT

OLD TESTAMENT
 ORTHODOX
 PRAYER
 PROPHECY
 PROTESTANT
 RESURRECTION
 SALVATION
 SCRIPTURES
 TRINITY