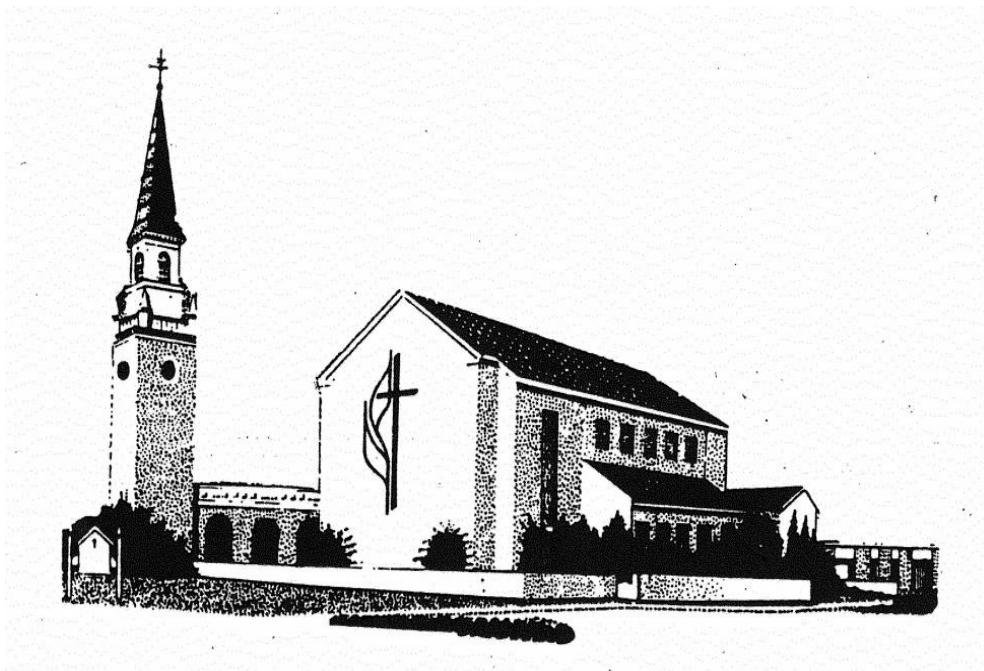


THE GOOD NEWS
From The
Stratford United Methodist Church

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 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 Worship Schedule

Chapel Service: 8:15 a.m.

Sanctuary Service: 10:00 a.m.

Communion Sundays (the first Sunday of every month) will only have the 10:00 am service.

The Sunday Service live stream begins at 10:00 a.m. **View the service** [here](#).

The bulletin for 4/21/24 can be found [here](#).

Previous services are available on [YouTube](#)

Listen By Phone

~ Call (646) 558-8656 before 10 AM

~ Enter Meeting ID: 203 375 5851

~ Enter Password: 123

Donating to SUMC is easy –
Just scan this QR code with your phone!



Sunday School Schedule



May

5th - NO SUNDAY SCHOOL

12th - Mother's Day - Flower Pots

19th

26th - Memorial Day Weekend - NO SUNDAY SCHOOL

June

2nd - NO SUNDAY SCHOOL

9th - LAST WEEK!

Sunday School will participate in the service and provide a picnic lunch

**SUMC SUNDAY SCHOOL PLANS TO RAISE FUNDS FOR CAMFED
(CAMPAIGN FOR EDUCATION)
DURING COFFEE HOUR ON MOTHER'S DAY**



CAMFED's Mission

CAMFED is a pan-African, grassroots-led movement tackling poverty, inequality and injustice through girls' education and women's leadership. Our focus is on vulnerable girls and young women in rural areas of Africa. This is where girls face acute disadvantage, and where unlocking their power will have a transformative impact.

Association members galvanize their communities into action, making sure girls secure their right to learn and lead. They are tackling everything from child marriage, and girls' exclusion from education, to youth unemployment and climate change.

This unique pan-African network of teachers, nurses, doctors, entrepreneurs and sustainable agriculture experts is growing every day as more girls complete school and join them, working together to change the status quo for women and girls for good. Our women leaders embody our shared values and principles

Sunday School is Cool



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Sunday School volunteers are needed to assist in walking the children from the sanctuary after the Children's Moment, and helping in the Sunday School rooms if able. Sign up to help on the sheets located in the narthex.

Give it a try, what is needed is to help the children to get to know Gods unconditional love and acceptance. I did it for many years and I wish I could do it now, but my age has limited me. I tell you it was a joy for me, and I miss it. I got to serve God and gained far more than I gave. It was a wonderful experience.

Diane Troutman



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

May 15th

Stratford Library, 2203 Main Street

June 5th

Unitarian Universalist Church, 275 Huntington Road

June 26th

Our Lady of Peace Church, 651 Stratford Road



Doris Becker Memorial Service
Friday, May 3rd at 11:00 a.m.
SUMC Sanctuary

Barbara Tschopp Memorial Service
Saturday, May 4th at 4:00 p.m.
SUMC Sanctuary
Interment immediately following at Union Cemetery



Coffee Fellowship

Hosts Needed!

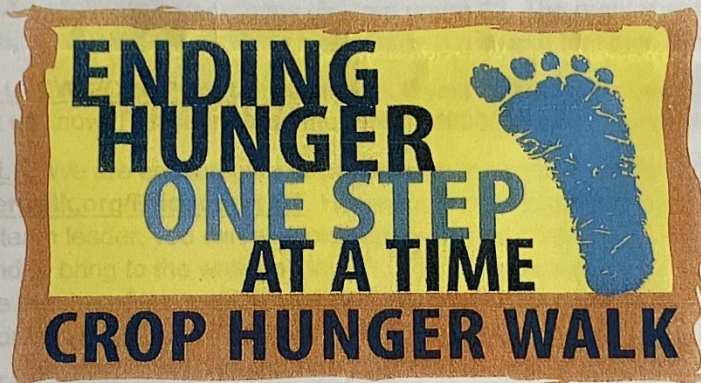
Come and sign up to host Coffee Hour and help with this amazing fellowship opportunity! Sign up sheets are located on the table in the narthex.



Walk With Us ... It's Our 50th!



**New location for the Rally! Pick up materials on
Sunday, March 10, 2024 at 2 PM at
HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
406 White Plains Road, Trumbull, CT**



CROP Hunger Walk – It's our 50th!

Sunday, May 5, 2024

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/bridgeportc



CHURCH WORLD SERVICE



“All Creation Sings” Hymn Festival

**A celebration of the 50th anniversary
of the Yale Institute of Sacred Music**

Sunday, May 5 • 4 pm

Woolsey Hall, 500 College St., New Haven

Many members of SUMC choir are singing in this event - event open for anyone to attend at Yale:

CHOIR NEWS

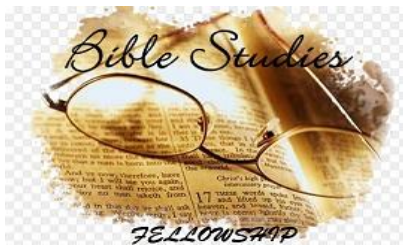


We are still seeking new Choir members.
If you know someone who loves to sing, please let them know that we are looking for new members. All are welcome!
If you have an interest in joining or have questions please stop by and speak to Chris after worship or send an email to music.director@sumcct.org.

Required rehearsal times are flexible.

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.

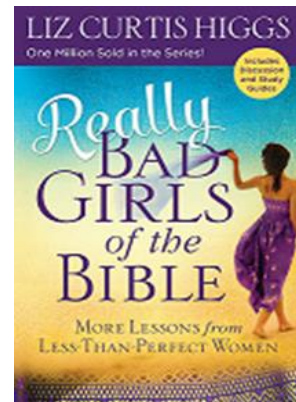


BIBLE STUDY IS HELD EVERY
TUESDAY AT 2:00 P.M. ON ZOOM.

We are currently reading and discussing the book

Really Bad Girls of the Bible:

More Lessons from Less-Than-Perfect Women



Join Zoom Meeting:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2160664239?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2160664239?pwd=K3U5b21WS0duQ2VIOXRQM0gvRUtPdZ09&omn=86183795830)

pwd=K3U5b21WS0duQ2VIOXRQM0gvRUtPdZ09&omn=86183795830

Meeting ID: 216 066 4239 / Passcode: 06614



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.

**This month's breakfast will be Saturday, MAY18th
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.

The Lord's Kitchen

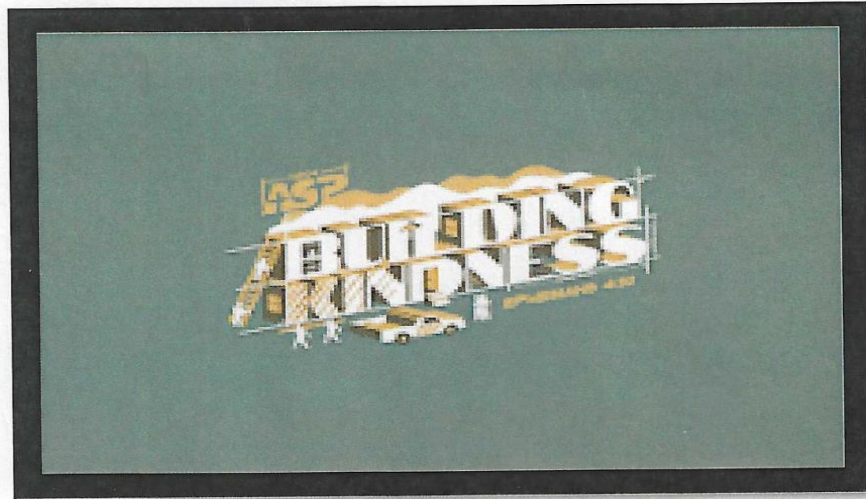
The next Lord's Kitchen will be on Monday, June 17th.



**A NEW COMMAND I GIVE
YOU, LOVE ONE ANOTHER.**

**BUT WHAT IF THEY DON'T AGREE WITH US ON A DISPUTABLE
MATTER THAT WE THINK SHOULD BE AN ESSENTIAL
DOCTRINE?**

**LET'S TRY THIS ONE MORE
TIME.....**



Appalachia Service Project is excited to share our theme for 2024: **Building Kindness.**

Our theme comes from Ephesians 4:32 *“Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ, God forgave you. (NIV)*

At ASP we build lots of things—we build new homes, we build relationships, we build community. We build on the foundation of God’s love shared with all of us through Christ who modeled a life of service, compassion, and intentional kindness. Stories of kindness are woven through scripture as a way of guiding us in our relationships.

The book of Ephesians is a book about God’s love for all people and in this we find instructions on how-to live-in unity with each other as members of the body of Christ. Our theme verse tells us that we are called to live by building kindness with each other. This is an intentional way of life where we give of ourselves in love and compassion to others. We do this with a servant heart, in humility, and we offer kindness with no expectation of receiving anything in return.

This summer we will explore our theme of Building Kindness through stories of Jesus’ ministry. Together we will learn how building kindness is foundational to building relationships and that kindness is a way of life as a follower of Christ. Let’s consider *Building Kindness* not as a series of random acts but as the potential to become a radical way of living.

ASP will be holding their annual stock sale April 28th and May 5th before and after service.

Watch our web site for ASP Golf event June 18th.

Sunflower Cookies (served at Coffee Hour)



Citrus Sugar Cookie dough (from Epicurious):
2 cups unbleached all purpose flour
Fluff
1 ½ teaspoons baking powder
¼ teaspoon salt
¾ cup (1 and ½ sticks) unsalted butter, softened
½ cup sugar
¼ cup powdered sugar
1 ¼ teaspoon grated lemon peel
1 ¼ teaspoon grated tangerine or orange peel
1 large egg

To assemble:
Marshmallow

Lemon Curd
Powdered sugar

Combine flour, baking powder and salt in small bowl. Set aside.
In another bowl cream butter and sugars. Beat until light and fluffy. Add grated peels and egg.
Add flour to butter mixture and beat until forms dough. Divide into 3 pieces and flatten into discs. Wrap each in plastic. Refrigerate until firm, about 4 hours. Can be prepared up to 2 days in advance.

To bake. Preheat oven to 350°.

Let dough disc soften. Sprinkle flour on work surface and roll out dough to 1/8 to 1/4" thickness. Cut with flower shaped cookie cutter. Place on baking sheet. Cut out the center of half the flowers (I used a thimble.) Bake 6 -7 minutes. Watch as they brown quickly. Cool on racks.

Sprinkle powdered sugar on top of the center cutout flower cookies.

Spread the uncut cookies with Marshmallow Fluff, then a dab of lemon curd in the center.

Press the center cutout flowers on top so that the lemon curd appears through the hole. Store in the refrigerator. Since these are butter cookies they taste better if they sit a few days. Bon Appetit!

Phebe Kirkham



Arts and Crafts will meet on May 8th at noon for a salad luncheon in the All Purpose Room. Note earlier time!
Please bring a salad and your own drink. Dessert will be provided by Diane Troutman. Please call Phebe Kirkham with your salad choice.

INCIDENTS AND HAPPENINGS OUT OF

OUR PAST CAMP MEETINGS

Methodist camp meetings began in America during the great religious revival of 1799 in Kentucky and Tennessee. Pastors John and William McGee, one a Methodist and one a Presbyterian, held the first camp meeting at Red River. The first meeting was so successful that a second was held at Muddy River and a third at The Ridge. Two Methodist pastors, John Granade and Caleb Taylor, added special camp meeting hymns and spiritual songs to enhance the preaching. Over the next 100 years tens of thousands of souls were converted during these meetings which were held from Maine to Mississippi. In the 1800's, after the end of the Civil War, our church purchased a large Army tent which was used by the members of our congregation. Our people who attended the meetings would travel to the meeting site and stay there for about a week.

In July of 1901 a three-week tent revival was held by our church in the Stratford area. Revivalists Chaplin Roberts of the Bowery Mission in New York City and Reverend J. L. Brooks of Texas held meetings continuously during each of the three weeks. As a result of this revival led by our pastor Reverend Royal Raymond, 50 persons were converted, and 30 persons joined our church.



Friendship Quilt Display in church has been extended through June. An alphabetical list is posted by the quilt so you can see if you or your relatives or friends made a square. Take a trip down memory lane!



Quote from James Thurber: "I am 65 and I guess that puts me in with the geriatrics. But, if there were 15 months in every year, I'd only be 48. That's the trouble with us: We number everything."

OUR AREAS OF SERVICE

Connecticut Maine
Massachusetts New Jersey
New Hampshire New York
Pennsylvania Rhode Island
Vermont Virginia



U.M. ARMY PROGRAMS INCLUDE:
Mixed Age (Graduated 6th Grade-Adult)
College/Young Adult (18+)
Weekend Pop-up (6th Grade-Adult)

CONTACT US

Gina Grubbs
Regional Director-Northeast
ginagrubbs@umarmy.org

WEBSITE

www.umarmy.org

ADDRESS

U.M. ARMY, Inc.
P.O. Box 7546
Huntsville, TX 77342

U.M. ARMY

UNITED IN MISSION ACTION REACH OUT
MINISTRY BY YOUTH



WHAT IS U.M. ARMY

MORE THAN MISSION WORK

U.M. ARMY provides an opportunity for youth, young adults and adults to experience Christian growth through service to others. Participants combine their strengths and resources to meet home repair and maintenance needs for low income, elderly and disabled homeowners who are physically and financially unable to make needed repairs themselves.

Our National Program Team develops a theologically sound annual program to be used at all programs nationwide. Young people return to U.M. ARMY year after year because our mission models provide the opportunity to impact the world around them and the encouragement to build relationships with neighbors in need, new friends, and positive adult role models. Participants realize the power of God's love as they mature into strong Christian leaders. Many will become leaders in the U.M. ARMY program. Some may choose careers in ministry settings. All will remember their time at U.M. ARMY for the rest of their lives.



OUR MISSION HISTORY

U.M. ARMY began in 1979, when thirty-six youth and adults from three Houston churches held the first U.M. ARMY mission week in Athens, TX. Since that time, we have grown to over 30 programs nationally each year. U.M. ARMY has held programs in 17 states to date. Each year we work diligently in our current regions to determine host communities as well as identifying growth areas to begin planting U.M. ARMY to additional regions and communities.

OUR MISSION PROGRAMS

Local churches host our mission programs. Participants eat, sleep, enjoy fellowship and worship in the church. They are divided into work teams of youth. Young adults and adults are leaders and support for the week. U.M. ARMY requires that church groups bring 2 adults for every 5 youth. Preparation, safety and teamwork are priorities for all camp participants.

U.M. ARMY youth and adults work together on construction projects such as porches, stairs and accessibility ramps. Teams also do a variety of home maintenance such as handrails, yard work, painting, windows and doors. Homeowners are referred through local social service agencies and church organizations.



JOIN US IN MISSION

We invite you and your church to experience U.M. ARMY. There are multiple ways to get involved.

Participate with us:

Church groups of any size and denomination are welcome to join us at mission weeks run in our established regions. Because our mission programs are located close to home you won't spend a fortune getting there. U.M. ARMY is more cost effective than other national mission programs because we utilize the connectional system to offset the cost of housing and food. Registration fees are \$325 per person depending on the camp model (Weekend camps are \$150pp).

This year U.M. ARMY is offering a Christmas Camp in December 2023. We also have our new U.M. ARMY Weekend Pop-up Camps that begin on a Friday night and end on Sunday evening. Check out our mission week opportunities at umarmy.org to find out more and register.

Host us:

We would love to bring U.M. ARMY to your community. Host churches report that something special occurs when U.M. ARMY is in their building and community. Because we view our hosts as partners in mission, our outreach is your outreach. Communities are transformed as we work together.



Have a bicycle you aren't using anymore?

Golden Hill United Methodist Church in Bridgeport needs **donations of bikes** for their annual **Used Bike Giveaway** on June 1, 2024 for families in need.

- Need children's, youth and adult bikes
- Bikes should be in decent shape (perhaps in need of a few **minor** repairs)
- A bike pick up can be arranged for a mutually agreeable time. Email pmachledt@gmail.com to make plans.
- Bikes can also be delivered to Golden Hill UMC, 210 Elm St., Bridgeport , Tuesday-Friday 9:30am-12pm. Other times can be arranged if needed. Please call the church first (203-336-0152)
- Need bike donations by **May 21** to allow time for repairs

To arrange to give a bike donation, please contact Phyllis Machledt at pmachledt@gmail.com or Golden Hill UMC (203-336-0152), Tues-Fri.) or email office@goldenhill.org.

~Part of the UMC Cooperative Parish Program



CHURCH CONTACT INFORMATION

Church Phone: (203) 375-5851

Rev. Suhee Kim: senior.pastor@sumcct.org

Beth Sullivan: secretary@sumcct.org

For the latest information check the website : www.sumcct.org

NEARER, MY GOD, TO THEE



ANGELS

CLEAVING

GIVEN

MOON

RAISETH

STILL

UPWARD

APPEAR

CROSS

HEAVEN

MY GOD

SENDEST

STONE

WAKING

BECKON

DARKNESS

JOYFUL

NEARER

SONG

SUN

WANDERER

BRIGHT

DREAMS

MERCY

PRAISE

STARS

THOUGHTS

WING