

E-Tidings

**Avon E-Tidings
Avon Congregational Church**

April 15, 2026

Worship and Hospitality Volunteers for Sunday, April 19:

Reader: Don DelCegno, Trustee: Bob Linderman, Usher: Donna Lynn Young
Videography: Betsy VanLoon, Flowers: Lisa Eells, Coffee Hour Setup: Jane Keeney & Lauri McBride, Food Volunteers – Terry and Bob DiRusso



With Gratitude for Diane Parker, who transitions from Office Manger

The oft quoted section of a well-known poem says, "People come into our lives for a season or a reason..." Diane, who took on the role of Office Manger did both for us at Avon Congregational Church and we are grateful. In our 'introductory period' it was mutually decided that while Diane possesses many varied skills, both Diane and leadership assessed in evaluations that this particular role with its exacting and particular skill set needed wasn't the perfect fit. Therefore, in the interim, we ask that you continue to send your office-related requests to office@avon-church.org and be patient as extra time will be needed to get

things done. A new search will take place and meanwhile, recently-retired Kathy Smith has graciously agreed to create our bulletins and E Tidings on a temporary basis. Thank you for your patience and prayers as we seek an Office Manager.

**All Creatures Great and Small, Saturday April 18th
11:30 am**

Avon's Animal Control Officer, Angela Grano will speak about her role in our community as helper and protector of both domestic animals and the wildlife. Held in the Fellowship Hall of Avon Congregational Church.



Donations for the Avon Pet Food Pantry are welcome. Please note this is not a pet adoption event nor will animals be present



**Following Worship THIS Sunday, April 19th
Beyond Flower Gardens:**

Native Woody Plants in a Pollinator Garden

Join us in Fellowship Hall following worship for an informative presentation by Margery Winters of Roaring Brook Nature Center and learn about native shrubs and trees, which are often an overlooked source of nectar & pollen in a pollinator garden. Learn why these plants provide even more than flowering perennials. This speaker will forever change how you view your yard and gardening!!



Coffee with the Pastor

Join us each Wednesday (except those Wednesdays just before a 1st Friday dinner when volunteers are cooking) at 10 AM at the Coffee Trade located at 21 West Main St. Come for conversation and fellowship... as well as a great cup of coffee! Pop in or stay for the hour. See you there!



An Intergenerational Mission Trip Opportunity for August in Maine, Planning trip April 19th

This is a meaningful multi-generational opportunity open to individuals and families (ages 13 and up). Last summer, 33 people from our Association [went](https://missionattheeastward.org/) on a very meaningful mission trip to Farmington, Maine to work with <https://missionattheeastward.org/>(MATE). They

stayed at the Farmington Conference Center ([Farmington Conference Center](#)). The cost last year was appx \$300. This year it will most likely be less AND our church has scholarships to help defray costs. We are happy to announce that we are returning for another mission trip to the same location this coming summer. August 1-6, 2026. Spread the word for people who may be interested in joining us. We are having two informational meetings (with free dinner!) on **April 19, 4 pm** in Palmer Hall at First Church Simsbury located at 689 Hopmeadow Street, Simsbury. Have questions? Contact Pastor Chris at pastor@avon-church.org



Men's Lunch, April 25th at Amici's Grill, Avon, 11:30 am

Calling all men! Members and friends of the church are offered an opportunity to meet in an informal setting and get to know one another better. Turnout has been great for the past few years and it's become sort of a fun tradition. Questions? call Dave Robbins at 203-521-7539.

First Friday Dinner at Avon Congregational Church, 6 West Main St., on May 1 at 5:30 – 7:00 PM

Join us for 'Sunday Meatloaf,' made with beef and pork meatloaf mix with shallots, herbs and spices. Served with Creamy Whipped Potatoes with butter, Tender herbed Green Beans, Tossed Salad with homemade champagne vinaigrette, Fresh-baked Rolls & our Dessert Buffet

which includes coffee and tea to complete your dining experience. **Cost is \$20 per person.** Take-out is available. For more information, call the church office at 860-678-0488 or email us at office@avon-church.org. No reservations necessary.





Dinner Volunteer Sign-Ups are on the main hall bulletin board by the office. We are looking for helpers who can assist with take-out, cook, serve the meal, clean up during and afterwards, and make a dessert. We are very thankful for all of our volunteers and look forward to another year of delicious dinners!



New Member Orientation, Sunday, May 3rd, following worship

- Does God call you to share your gifts in ways that will provide you with deep meaning? Do you seek lifelong friendships here with us? A New Member Orientation Lunch will be held on Sunday, May 3rd, following the worship service. If you haven't already spoken to Pastor Chris, and you have discerned that God is calling you to be a new member here, please call 860-678-0488, ext. 11.

New Member Sunday, May 17th during worship - This is the day when the congregation recognizes your choice to join our journey of faith. Please reach out to Pastor Chris if you would like a conversation or have questions regarding your interest in becoming a new member of Avon Congregational Church. Indeed, God has a plan for you!

**Church Member's Art & Crafts Show,
May 17th at Coffee Hour**



Show your creative side. Are you a photographer, painter, illustrator, quilt maker or do you dabble in some other fine art? Amateur or Pro - share your art and let us behold. Bring items and some descriptive notes about your artwork that we'll set up on tables for our May 17th Coffee Hour.

Any questions? Contact organizer Dave Robbins at Davidrobbins62@comcast.net

Silver Lake Summer Camp for Youth Registering NOW

Did you know that the United Church of Christ has a beautiful summer camp with more than 60 acres of wooded land on lakeside shores in the western hills of Connecticut? Go to www.SilverLakeCT.org to check out all the options for youth in grades 4-12 (a poster is on our bulletin boards too). Silver Lake is a place for everyone to experience nature, make new friends, and explore faith. Church members are offered scholarships for their children. See Pastor Chris for more details on this.



Repurpose Worship Flowers and Add Healing Joy for those in Rehab

Sometimes healing can come, even when there may not be a cure. Moments of joy – those special 'joie de vivre' can make life precious in any condition and at any age. Often, there are lovely large bouquets of flowers that can be divided up into many small arrangements and then taken to nearby Avon Health or Apple Rehab. Would you like to help do this or do you have some mason jars you would donate for this purpose? Contact Pastor Chris at pastor@avon-church.org if you'd like to help with this healing ministry.

Love thy Neighbor Articles Sought

In our busy lives, we sometimes miss the breaking news, happenings and transitions of each other's lives. Would you like to share an update regarding yourself or your family that church members would care to know? Perhaps ways God is working in your life? Send these points of interest to office@avon-church.org and we'll be sure to add them to an upcoming E-Tidings.





A Letter from Family Village Farm Regarding our Sponsored Child in India

Sathiyaraj will continue to stay at FVF till completes a proper trade and till we find a job for him. Normally, the Industrial Training Institute (ITI) where we are planning to enroll him, will assist the boys in job placement as they have tie ups with Industries. So it would take another 3 to 4 years for him to leave FVF depending on what trade he is going to study; some are two year diplomas and others 3 years. He might have a short period of internship after he completes the course. Until then, he will stay under the care of FVF as well as guardianship of the director of FVF.

His date of birth is April 18, 2009. Now he is 15 and studying 9th grade. As you know your support will end when he turns 18, that is 2027. An approximate cost of studying a skill training course comes to Rupees 35,000 to 40,000* for a year. The course fee, Hostel & Mess fee

depends on the ITI. Some charge more because they are enhanced facilities. Most of the ITI are Catholic run institutions where the quality of education, food, accommodation are good with strict rules and regulations. And job placements are better as well. We prefer to put the boys in a safe ITI.

Rs. 35,000 to 40,000 includes his course fee, Hostel Fee, Mess Fee, Uniform/Footwear/ Safety gadgets (such as Goggles, gloves, industrial boots and a few tools etc.), Travel fare, monthly Pocket money, and miscellaneous expenses such as things required for his hostel stay and monthly ration of toiletries and so on. We try our best to meet these expenses within that amount of money; but it always goes beyond that. However, it is more important that the boy completes the training successfully and secures a decently paid job so that he can be independent with self respect in the society. That's our mission.

Thanks to Avon Congregational Church for enabling us to carry on our mission by their financial and prayer support.

* As a note, 40,000 rupees is equivalent to 430 U.S. dollars.

Livestreaming Services and Accessing Church Social Media

Sunday services are accessible on the Avon Congregational Church Facebook page and our YouTube channel. The links for those are below:

<https://www.facebook.com/avoncongregational> or
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC9C9s7fZ28HKpSllaoeGZfQ>

For information about Avon Congregational Church, click on the following link:

The Avon Congregational Church Website

www.avon-church.org

Most events and lots of pictures are often posted to our ACC Facebook Page

Statement of Inclusion

In keeping with the life and teaching of Christ Jesus, we joyfully and unconditionally welcome all people of any age, gender, sexual orientation, race, culture, ability or social or economic status into our community of faith. We affirm the humanity of all people as unique individuals made in God's image. We also affirm the special gifts that each person has to offer. We invite all to participate in the full life of the church and covenant of our Christian community.

Staff Contact List – Online Church Information

Rev. Chris Solimene, Pastor	pastor@avon-church.org
Karen Levan, Dir. of Music Ministries/Organist	music@avon-church.org
Jolene Tefoe, Dir. of Avon Nursery School	ans@avon-church.org
Office Manager,	office@avon-urch.org
John Carlson, Finance Administrator	administrator@avon-church.org
Lenny Lebatique, Sexton	



Church Address: 6 West Main Street, Avon, CT 06001

Church Phone Number 860-678-0488

Church Website www.avon-church.org

Church Wi-Fi: avonchurch

Steering Circle 2025 – 2026

Moderator – Jerry Humble; Treasurer – Bob Linderman; Clerk – Candace Doersch;
Worship – Alex Harris and Kent May; Nurturing – Lee Egan and Joan Miller;
Outreach – Marcia Cox and Leslie Desmangles; Support – Beth Ferrari and Betsy Van Loon; Members – at - Large – Kate Allen and Kate Rickson - McNally