

E-Tidings

Avon Congregational Church's
Electronic Weekly Newsletter

April 22, 2026

Worship and Hospitality Volunteers for Sunday, April 26:

Reader: Ellen Matos, Trustee: Laurie Petrin, Usher: Lee Egan, Videography: Donna Lynn Young, Flowers: Lisa Eells, Coffee Hour Setup: Karen & Charlie Zaorski, Food Volunteers – Charlie & Karen Zaorski



Many thanks to Avon's Animal Control Officer for sharing information with our members, friends and area residents about all creatures great and small. Be sure to slow down out there and watch out for wildlife!!



A Note from our Livestream Team - Vimeo, the platform that pushes our feed to Facebook and our Avon Congregational Church YouTube Channel issued a new streaming key just before our service on Sunday, creating a bit of last moment panic for the team. As you can see, we kept our humor and while we were unable to correct the problem in time for the service on April 19, all has since been updated and repaired. We regret not being able to livestream and realize it is an important connection

for many of our healing, traveling and long distance members and friends. Please consider joining the livestream team. See the fun you're missing? If interested, please contact Pastor@Avon-Church.org.



Re: Dave

I need 7qty of Apple or Macy's gift cards \$200 value on each (total \$1400). You should get them at any local store around you. After you get them Scratch off the seal on the claim code and take a clear picture of each cards front and back having them removed from the packs.

Send to me here so I can forward them to each respective staffs via their emails. Please keep the physical cards and receipt for reference and reimbursement purpose.

I'll make your reimbursement available to you on Friday. Bring the physical cards along when you're coming for your reimbursement.

God bless.

Christopher Solimene
Pastor

Reminder: Watch out for Email & Texting Scams - Recently a church member was notified in an email to purchase gift cards for the church and to send the receipt numbers in an email. The email was signed "God Bless" and then Pastor Chris' name was used. Pastor Chris nor any staff member will EVER text or email you with instructions to send money or gift cards. Please be very careful because hackers know to look at websites and get names of staff and 'seemingly' know all sorts of things about a church. Any asks for money would always be through proper channels and like our annual stewardship pledge time, would be well communicated in many different ways with very clear instructions. Please call the office if you ever have a concern or question about what appears to be a legitimate ask.

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! (Note: No Coffee w/Pastor on April 29th)



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.

Meals in a Bag: A Food Ministry Opportunity, will be introduced during coffee hour on Sunday, April 26 - The Social and Environmental Justice Ministry will be collecting ingredients to create "Dinners in a Bag" and "Birthday Kits" to bring to food pantries around the area. Meals in a bag feed up to 4 people. The goal is to collect items that can be assembled into complete, shelf-stable dinner and birthday kits. Each kit will include all the ingredients needed. The plan is to create approximately 50 dinner kits, divided between two meal options: Chicken and Dumplings and Vegetarian Minestrone Soup, and 25 birthday kits. All the information participants need will be available at the sign-up table during coffee hour this Sunday.



Donations will be collected over the next six weeks, with a target distribution date in the second week of June. This timing aligns with the end of the school year, when the need for meals becomes more acute.

Calling all chefs! We'll be cooking for our upcoming First Friday Dinner on **Wednesday, April 29 at 9:30 AM**. All are invited to help out!



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.



Sign up for a table today! Seeking Vendors for our Quilt and Craft Show October 17 & 18 - Avon Congregational Church Quilt Show and Craft Fair showcasing the art and beauty of quilting featuring antique, traditional, and modern quilts. Special exhibits by Mountain Laurel Applique Society, Central Connecticut Modern Quilt Guild, Farmington Valley Quilt Guild, Brenda Day, and the

Upper Farmington River Quilt. Do you know an artisan or crafter who would like to rent a table and share their artistry? Table Rental is \$45 for one table and two chairs. We hope to get lots of varied interesting vendors. If interested, go to this link:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1ezlleXfKygtVB6ucvM7zLftWuFhx3oMXZaHGUSdq-4I/edit> or call Craft Table Coordinator, Kathy Hine at kathyhine@me.com

2026 Tax Update! Charitable Donations Now Deductible Without Itemizing - The Support Ministry and Finance Team are pleased to share this update, and we hope it helps you plan your charitable giving and pledges to Avon Congregational Church.

In past years, if you claimed the standard deduction for your federal income taxes, charitable contributions did not reduce your tax bill.



Starting in 2026 tax year, those who claim the standard deduction will be able to deduct up to \$1,000 in charitable contributions or \$2,000 for a married couple filing jointly. Recipients of your contributions must be qualified public charities like ACC.

At age 70 ½, you can donate money from your traditional IRAs (not Roth accounts) to charities via Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCDs). The amount allowed is adjusted for inflation each year. In 2026, the amount which can be distributed from IRAs to charities via QCDs is \$111,000.

Here's the good news! Direct gifts from your IRA to a qualified charity aren't tax deductible, but they do not count toward your adjusted gross income. That can reduce or even eliminate the Medicare high-income surcharge (IRMAA) and decrease taxes on Social Security benefits. The result? You can support the charities you value (like ACC) while potentially lowering both your Medicare costs and your taxes.

At age 73, QCDs from your traditional IRAs count toward your annual Required Minimum Distribution (RMDs).

An alphabet soup of IRA, QCD and RMDs! Please talk with your financial advisor to learn more. ACC members Bob Linderman (Treasurer), Betsy Van Loon and Beth Ferrari (Support Ministry co-leaders) are also available to help, but please know that we are not financial experts.

If it is right for you and your financial plan, your QCDs can be sent directly to Avon Congregational Church to fulfill your annual pledge or make an additional gift. Unlike a subscription to Netflix or cable TV, this is a "subscription" you won't regret!



The Special Gifts Ministry Replaces ACC Creche Figures -

The figures shown, along with two new sheep on order, will grace the church lawn next Advent and Epiphany. Several funds supported this purchase: the Stanley Fuller Fund, the Joseph Glowacki Fund, the William J. Egan Fund, the Glenna Ferris Fund, the bequest from former ACC sexton Bertlan F. Turner, Sr., and a gift from David Drumm in honor of Sally Albrecht.

We thank the donors who made generous donations to these funds, in memory of the loved ones of Gail Rogers, Lynn Emery, Lee Egan, Sandy and Dick Lytle, and Doug and Heidi Glowacki. Thank you also to David Drumm for honoring Sally in this special way.

In this photograph, the figures are on their way from being unpacked by Pastor Chris, to safekeeping in the church basement. The figures are an enduring and easy-to-carry improvement over the older figures. They are durable, attractive (the cow needs a good meal though) and lightweight.

Joining them on the church lawn will be the figures (purchased 2023) of Mary, Joseph, and Jesus. Our creche will also include older figures that have been nurtured along for years to look their best: two sheep, a healthy-fed cow, the angel, and three camels.

The Special Gifts Ministry: *Nora Howard, Chair, with Edie Bergman, Carol Burnham, Lynn Emery, Beth Ferrari, and Kent May. The Special Gifts Ministry enhances the Sanctuary and campus of ACC through memorial donations, donations in honor of a person, or for any reason. The Memorial Gifts Register Book is in the vestibule.*



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.

Coffee Hour Opportunities - If you have missed a chance to provide coffee hour treats this year (remember, we are asking people to sign up only once per year!) We have a few open dates left before summer begins. If interested, please contact Beth Ferrari at bethferrari@comcast.net. The remaining dates are: 5/3, 5/10 (Mother's Day), 5/31, 6/7, 6/21 (Father's Day) and 6/28. Please consider helping out with this important ministry. Thank you!



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.



Community News



New Ministry And Support Group for Families with Dementia - Trinity Episcopal Church of Collinsville has started a New Ministry Care for The Caregivers offering to the community free support to families dealing with dementia. The first support group meeting is **May 3rd and then the first Sunday of every month thereafter. Trinity Church is located at 55 River Rd Collinsville. They will meet from 1:00 to 2:00 PM.** Questions? Contact info Bruce Quigley at 570-881-4747 or brucequigley@hotmail.com

An Avon's America 250 Event, Sunday, May 24, 2:00-4:00 PM at the Avon Town Hall - All are welcome at the free **Avon Arts Association reception**. On view there will be 16 artworks by nine artists, depicting scenes of Avon and other local towns. Some of the works about Avon feature the Avon Congregational Church, Luke's Donuts, a West Avon pumpkin patch, and the Governor's Horse Guard. About three-quarters of the works are for sale (not the Avon Congregational Church painting). *Illustration: Avon Arts Association flyer, with painting of our church by Candace Jeffress.*



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.



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

Sathiyaraj will continue to stay at FVF till he 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