



## Avon Congregational Church's Electronic Weekly Newsletter

July 1, 2026

[www.avon-church.org](http://www.avon-church.org)

### **Worship and Hospitality Volunteers for Sunday, July 5:**

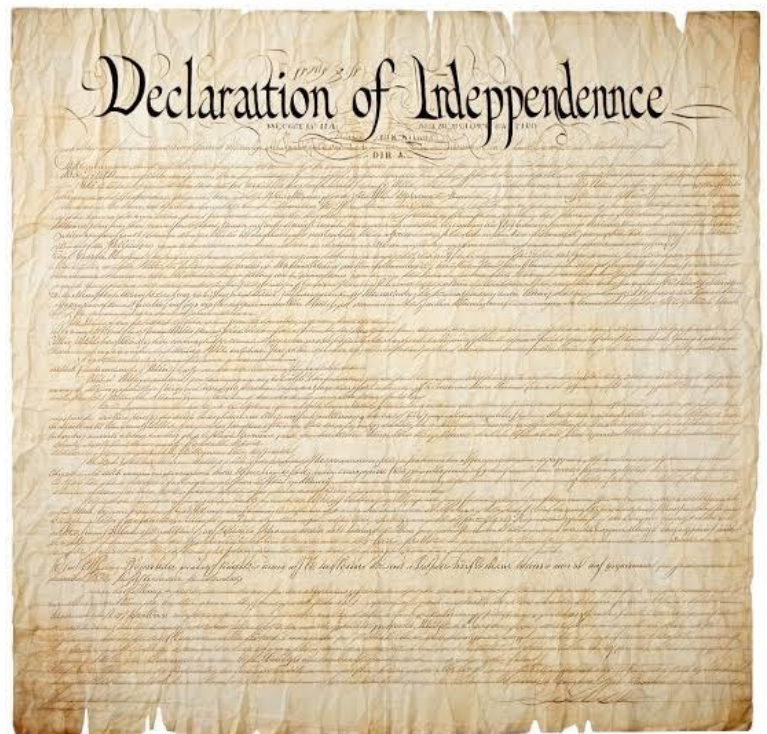
Communion - Barbara Ruppert, Reader - Leslie Desmangles,  
Trustee - Susan Elliott, Usher - Bob DiRusso, Videographer - Nora Howard  
Summertime Coffee Hour Helpers – Members/Friends who want to help

Dear Members and Friends,

This Sunday, July 5<sup>th</sup>, we will take a special look at the creation of The Declaration of Independence, whose 250<sup>th</sup> we celebrate this year.

Who wrote it? Who inspired it?  
Who was included? Who was left out? And where is God in all of this?

With all of this to consider, why is it perhaps one of the greatest written documents in all of history?? Join us for worship and reflect with me, as well as sing along to some of our nation's favorite tunes. See you on Sunday!



In the meantime, have a safe and blessed 4<sup>th</sup>!  
Pastor Chris



### **JULY 4 Church Bell Ringing, Museum's 250th Podcast Recording**

On 2 p.m. on July 4, the church's bell will ring to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration of Independence by the 2nd Continental Congress. Our ringing coincides with bells around the USA ringing at the same time.

Feel free to come to (or near) ACC and listen to the bells (from outside) for this once-in-a-lifetime event!

Chris Moore and Tom Transue will be pulling each bell rope in the ACC balcony 13 times (for the 13 colonies). The first rope rings a single note; the second rope rings two notes.

The Avon Museum (6 East Main Street) will be open from 1-4 p.m. At the museum, all are invited to speak for 250 seconds (about 4 minutes) on their thoughts about the 250th. Selections may be included in an Avon Historical Society Avon's America 250 podcast.



### **Summertime Coffee Hour on vacation???**

We are hoping for a "community" coffee hour format this summer. Those who really want coffee and tea will take turns to set it up. Those who want treats will bring and share them. Cold drinks and half & half will always be available in the refrigerator. Instructions for making coffee are always posted in the

kitchen behind the hallway door. Thank you for sharing this labor of love!

### **Quilt Show and Craft Fair at Avon Congregational Church, October 17 & 18**

Do you want to display your quilt to the show? Please contact Susan Elliott at [shsellott@sbcglobal.net](mailto:shsellott@sbcglobal.net) or 860-748-1775 with any questions about your submission or the show. Quilt entries are due by September 15<sup>th</sup>.







**Calling all artists, crafters and bakers!** There will be a special ACC vendor booth dedicated to our members to donate handmade items to sell at the fall quilt show. If you are interested, there's a form near the office with more details. If questions, please contact Beth Ferrari or Donna Young.



**Time is Running Out!! (see left) JUST A FEW REMAINING !!**  
**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. Table Rental is \$45 for one table and two chairs. We hope to get lots of varied interesting vendors. If interested, contact Craft Table Coordinator, Kathy Hine at [kathyhine@me.com](mailto:kathyhine@me.com)



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**WANTED/NEEDED: Volunteers for our Hidden Treasures Shop.**

Looking to fill 4-hour shifts (from 10 AM til 2 PM) or 2-hour shifts, Thursdays and Saturdays during June and July. Most Saturdays are wide open for volunteers. Without you we will be closed! No prior experience needed. The shop is in our budget to raise \$4k. Bring a book to read, rearrange the merchandise, do some 'house cleaning', in good weather sit outside (bring a chair) or just listen to music. Call Sandy Lytle to sign up 860-810-9048 and volunteer for one or more days.

**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/UC9C9s7fZ28HKpSllaogEZfQ>

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

**The Avon Congregational Church Website**  
[www.avon-church.org](http://www.avon-church.org)

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

## ART WITH AVON CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, PART II

This story follows on the E-Tidings article recently about the Avon Free Public Library's Art Show that included three artworks depicting the Avon Congregational Church. The Avon Arts Association Show on May 24 at Town Hall featured 16 artworks, and four depicted ACC, In addition, Town Hall has the 1976 Bicentennial Quilt with a square showing ACC, a 1995 blanket with ACC, and several paintings with ACC by Janice Loeffler (1980s; not pictured here; Town Hall ground floor). One thing is certain, our beautiful meetinghouse is a beloved landmark!



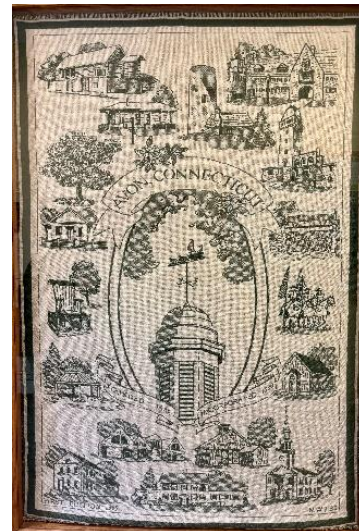
*Pvt. Leverett Holden* by Sarah Hathaway



*Red, Blue & White*, by Ishrat Abid



*Avon, CT* by Candace Jeffress



Blanket, 1995, in Town Hall Council Chambershallway.



## MORE IMAGES OF OUR CHURCH SHOWN AT THE LIBRARY

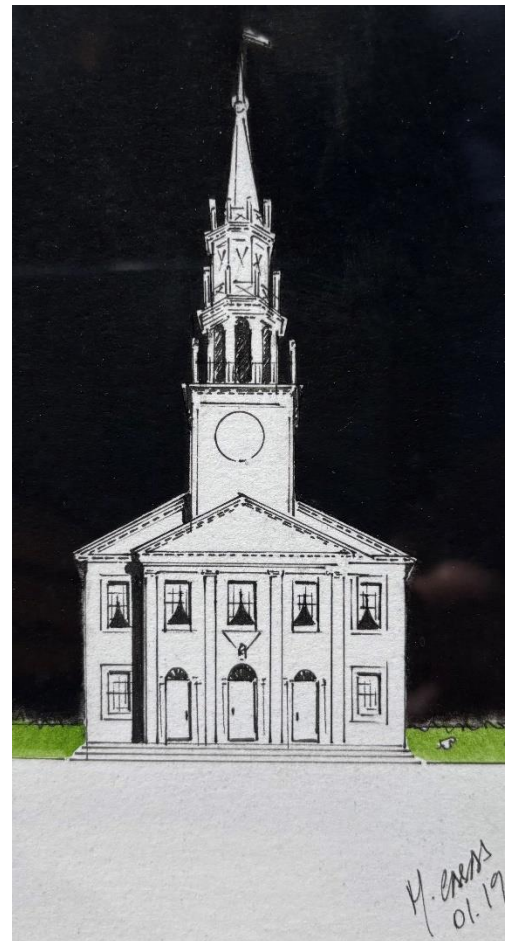


By Janice B. Loeffler, c. 1987. The artist, ACC member, painted 10 watercolors to illustrate Mary-Francis MacKie's Avon, Connecticut (1988). The original paintings were sold to raise funds to print the book. *West Avon Congregational Church Archives.*



(Above) By George Edward Candee (1837-1907). The Rev. Rufus Hawley homestead, 218 Old Farms Road. Looking towards Avon center, with the Avon Congregational Church steeple visible. The Farmington River is behind the children, towards the right of the painting. *Private Collection*

(Right) By Maurice Casas, Farmington Valley Arts Center, 2019. *Collection of Nora Howard*





# **A COMMUNITY READING OF THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE: MEET THE CONNECTICUT SIGNERS**

*Bring the whole family for this special Avon's 250<sup>th</sup> event!*

**Wednesday, July 8, 2026 7:00 pm**

*Doors open at 6:30pm. Event will be held at the Avon Senior Center,  
635 West Avon Road, Avon, CT. Parking in rear.*

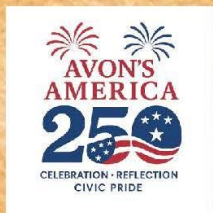
On July 8, 1776, the Declaration of Independence was read in public for the first time. Now, 250 years later, Avon invites you to experience that historic moment together. Join us for an interactive community reading featuring Connecticut's four signers of the Declaration—Roger Sherman, William Williams, Oliver Wolcott, and Samuel Huntington.



*Declaration of Independence by John Trumbull, 1818. Courtesy of Library of Congress*

Learn surprising stories, test your knowledge, and reflect on the powerful words that helped launch a nation. Participation materials will be provided and all ages are welcome.

*Event script used with permission by the author Jennie May Rehnberg,  
Honorary CT Daughters of the American Revolution State Regent*



Sponsored by Avon Historical Society,  
Avon Free Public Library, and the Avon Senior Center

Registration is not required; just drop in.

### **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                    | <a href="mailto:pastor@avon-church.org">pastor@avon-church.org</a>               |
| Karen Levan, Dir. of Music Ministries/Organist | <a href="mailto:music@avon-church.org">music@avon-church.org</a>                 |
| Jolene Tefoe, Dir. of Avon Nursery School      | <a href="mailto:ans@avon-church.org">ans@avon-church.org</a>                     |
| Charry Salmon, Office Manager                  | <a href="mailto:office@avon-church.org">office@avon-church.org</a>               |
| John Carlson, Finance Administrator            | <a href="mailto:administrator@avon-church.org">administrator@avon-church.org</a> |
| Lenny Lebatique, Sexton                        |                                                                                  |



Church Address: 6 West Main Street, Avon, CT 06001  
Church Phone Number 860-678-0488  
Church Website [www.avon-church.org](http://www.avon-church.org)  
Church Wi-Fi: avonchurch

Scan to Donate

### **Steering Circle 2026 – 2027**

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