



# Avon Congregational Church's Electronic Weekly Newsletter

September 16, 2026

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

## Worship and Hospitality Volunteers for Sunday, September 20

Reader - Rosemarie (RJ) Jarrett, Trustee - Sue Crowther, Usher - Dave Crowther,  
Videographer - Kate Rickson-McNally

**Our handbell choir is welcoming new members—no prior experience required!** The first rehearsal **Wednesday, September 16<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm** in the bell room. Come try out a fun, joyful, and welcoming group where everyone plays a crucial part.



## Executive Director of Pathways/Senderos Center to Offer Q&A on September 20

Heather Mills, who runs an organization whose mission is to empower youth and build community relationships in the Greater New Britain Area will offer an overview of the organization as well as engage a Question and Answer session with us during Coffee Hour following worship on **Sunday, September 20<sup>th</sup>** in Fellowship Hall. Our Outreach Ministry will be working with Pathways/Senderos in this program year. See attached poster for more information.



**Coffee with the Pastor** will take place the 2nd through 4th (or 5th) Wednesdays, 10 am at the Coffee Trade (21 West Main St.) each month. Please note: there is no longer CWTP on the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of each month, often when we are cooking for 1st Friday Dinners. **Come by for conversation and fellowship.** Pop in or stay for the hour. See you there!

**Sunday School has officially started!** If you have a child between 3 - 12 years old, we would LOVE to have you join us! Pastor Chris is pleased to announce we continue with Lauren Lett (Coordinator), and Jane Keeney. We will continue with a one-room schoolhouse model with adaptive educational opportunities to meet the needs of all our students. Questions? Email [Pastor@Avon-Church.org](mailto:Pastor@Avon-Church.org)





**September Stone Soup** Please join us on **Monday, September 21st at 2 pm** to prepare a hearty meal for the clients of Loaves & Fishes soup kitchen in Hartford. All ingredients are provided, we just need volunteers. If you have any questions, please contact Beth Ferrari or Kathy Hine.

**Help needed** We are collecting listed food items to make soup to sell during the quilt show. We are making 200 servings. This is our major fundraiser this fall. Please check out the list on the bulletin board. If it's easier, please donate with cash so the items can be bought. **We also need help cooking on Tuesday, Sept 22nd from 12-3.** Thank you for your help. Questions? Contact Ellen Matos at 860-930-0173.

**Retired Men's Discussion Group** Meeting the 2nd Monday of each month in the Library, 10:30 am -12:00 pm. Calling all retired (or 'rewired') men! Would you like a low-stress, no obligation opportunity to share similar experiences and build lasting friendships? Do you sometimes feel 'invisible' in a world geared toward the working young? This monthly discussion group offers topic starters, like 'Name your favorite TV show as a kid?' all the way to 'Do you ever feel more invisible as you age?' Engaging, fun, meaningful. Questions? Call the Church Office or contact church members, Jerry Humble or Leslie DesMangles.



**Support Avon Nursery School! Make mealtime easier while supporting our playground fundraiser!** Avon Nursery School is partnering with Pampered Chef as a fundraiser to enhance their playground. Please see the enclosed flyer. Scan the QR code to get more information and to place your order. Also consider joining Pampered Chef's live cooking event **Tuesday evenings at 8 PM** for only 30 minutes for simple recipes, cooking tips, and product ideas. Watch live or anytime—no registration needed! Use this link to view the live cooking demonstrations:

<https://www.pamperedchef.com/pws/angelamaria/live-events> or go back and view the pre-recorded videos anytime!

**Blessing of the Prayer Shawls, Sunday, September 27 during worship** Calling all knitters and crochet-ers: You're all invited to bring your shawls to worship on the 27<sup>th</sup>, where they will be displayed around the pulpit. Our annual blessing of prayer shawls celebrates the creation of these handcrafted items intended to bring comfort, peace, and a tangible sign of love to recipients - often those undergoing illness, grief, or other struggles.





**Spiffing up the August Memorial Garden** Gladys and Bob August were long time members who shared their time and talents and resources with Avon Congregational church over many years. The small garden is on the post office side of Route 10 as we approach our overflow parking lot.

**Many thanks to Kate and Charlie for cleaning up the garden and adding some autumnal beauty.**

**An Autumn Bible Study: Women In The Bible, October 1 & 8, 10:30 AM -12:30 PM** in the library. Offered by Leslie DesMangles, church member and professor in Religious Studies. Many of the women in the Bible are intriguing figures who defied male authority in a patriarchal society. They resisted the men by devising clever schemes, and even sexual seductions, to guarantee the needs of their people. What is remarkable is that these women were not punished and were often rewarded for their boldness and their unconventional behaviors. In this study, we examine the lives of these timeless heroines and give attention to their struggles to love, to parent and to succeed in their relationships with others. A sign up is in the main hallway.



**Friday Dinner at Avon Congregational Church, 6 West Main St., on October 2<sup>nd</sup> at 5:30 – 7:00 PM. Join us for a family favorite, 4-Cheese Rigatoni Casserole with homemade Meatballs on the side.** This month's entrée is served with Ciabatta Garlic Bread, Caesar Salad, and our popular "Dessert Buffet", which includes coffee and tea to complete your dining experience. **\$20 per person.** Take-out is available. For more information, call the church office at 860-678-0488, or email [office@avon-church.org](mailto:office@avon-church.org). No reservations necessary.

**Sign up on the main hall bulletin board** if you'd like to help cook, set-up, serve or clean-up at the First Friday Dinner on October 2<sup>nd</sup>, or make a delicious dessert for our famous "Dessert Buffet".

**Blessing of the Animals, Sunday, October 4<sup>th</sup> at 3 PM** - All creatures great and

Bring your creatures, great and small, to the

Blessing of the



small, along with their owners, are welcome to gather in Fellowship Hall to receive a special blessing. Remembering our furry and feathered saints, who are no longer with us, bring a photo or keepsake along with a story of fond remembrance, which we'll weave into our service.

**Help Fill Backpacks at Hands On Hartford** - We will be returning to Hands On Hartford to help fill food bags for Hartford students in need. If you are interested in joining us, we have a rotating schedule of volunteers for a Wednesday morning time slot. We are flexible and slots are monthly or twice monthly. We carpool in to Hartford and sometimes stay for lunch at the Gather55 cafe. If interested, please contact Beth Ferrari at [bethferrari@comcast.net](mailto:bethferrari@comcast.net) or Kathy Hine at [kathyhine@me.com](mailto:kathyhine@me.com)



### **Quilt Show and Craft Fair at Avon Congregational Church**

**October 17 & 18** Volunteers are needed on Thursday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. Joan Miller is recruiting volunteers so please help make this a successful fund raiser. There are sitting jobs so everyone can participate.

**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.



### **Interested in Helping with Coffee Hour?**

The new calendar for coffee hour is being scheduled now. Our goal is to spread the task to **all** members, so no one person is overburdened. We have a committee in place to set up and take down the coffee pots, but we are looking for members to provide the food each Sunday. Please contact Beth Ferrari [bethferrari@comcast.net](mailto:bethferrari@comcast.net) to schedule your date. Thank you!

# **THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATIONS!!**

**TOGETHER, WE COLLECTED  
ALMOST 100 COSTUMES**

WITH APPRECIATION,  
AMELIA





# Pathways/Senderos

EMPOWERING YOUTH. BUILDING FUTURES. STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY.



## OUR MISSION

To eliminate teen pregnancy by addressing its root causes, assuring high school graduation and promoting adult self-sufficiency.

We provide long-term, comprehensive, holistic services by creating a parallel family structure with New Britain youth and families.



*Today's Support.  
Tomorrow's Success.* 

## WHAT WE OFFER



### ACADEMIC ENRICHMENT

Homework help, tutoring, and strategies to build strong study skills.



### COLLEGE & CAREER READINESS

Career exploration, college visits, resume building, interview skills, and financial literacy.



### LEADERSHIP & LIFE SKILLS

Workshops and activities that build confidence, decision-making, and leadership.



### HEALTH & WELLNESS

Nutrition, mental health awareness, healthy relationships, and violence prevention education.



### FAMILY ENGAGEMENT & SUPPORT

Parent workshops, family activities, and resources to support your child's success.



### TRANSPORTATION & FOOD SUPPORT

Free transportation from the program during the school year and nutritious snacks and meals.



## WHO WE SERVE

Middle & High School Students (Grades 6–12) in New Britain

- ✓ Targeting 5th graders as they transition to 6th grade
- ✓ Committed to supporting youth from middle school through high school graduation and beyond

## MAKING AN IMPACT

Our results speak for themselves.



**100%**

of participants advance to the next grade level, including high school graduation.



**80%**

show measurable improvements in math & ELA state assessments and SAT scores.



**60+**

youth and families benefit directly from our Family Engagement Program each quarter.

## MORE THAN A PROGRAM—A PATHWAY

- ✓ A safe, inclusive space after school, on school vacations, and throughout the summer.
- ✓ Hands-on learning, enrichment activities, and community service.
- ✓ Building brighter futures and breaking the cycle of generational challenges.

**CONFIDENT  
CAPABLE  
CONNECTED  
PREPARED  
FOR SUCCESS**



## GET INVOLVED

Support our mission. Change a life.

- Volunteer
- Donate
- Partner
- Spread the Word

*The Path is Their Future.  
Let's Walk It Together.* 



43 Viets Street  
New Britain, CT 06053



(860) 229-2776



[www.pathways-senderos.org](http://www.pathways-senderos.org)

## FOLLOW US!





# PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT FUNDRAISER



For: Avon Nursery School

## PAMPERED CHEF FUNDRAISER

When: Sept 1<sup>st</sup>  
through 30<sup>th</sup>



Goal: To raise \$500 to purchase the  
Excellerations® STEM Water Table

### Help Support Avon Nursery School! ❤️

We are excited to be hosting a Pampered Chef fundraiser to kick off purchasing playground equipment for the nursery school! 🙌 The goal is \$3000 in sales which will equal \$450 donated by Pampered Chef to Avon Nursery School to purchase the Excellerations® STEM Water Table.

It's easy to participate. Just scan the QR code below where you can shop, interact, discover new recipes and view products and tutorial videos.

Up to 15% of your purchase will be donated back to Avon Nursery School.



ANS Fundraiser Shop Here

Scan the QR code from your phone. You will be asked enter your name and to enter your phone number and email address. Once you've entered the Pampered Chef site, you will be able shop to support the purchase of new playground equipment for Avon Nursery School.

Questions: Call/Text Angela at (860) 980-0559,  
Independent Pampered Chef Consultant

URL to Shop:  
<https://table.pamperedchef.com/party/3762357vro>

## Yoga To Rebuild for Bones and Gut Health

On Saturdays -Regular Yoga practice benefits-

- Yoga for Bones (Arthritis) 26 Sept-11:00 am

For mobility, strength, relieves pain and stiffness

- Yoga for Gut health 3 Oct -11:00 am

Improves digestion, relive constipation and acidity, core strength

Please bring your yoga mat. Class is free. Sign up and Reserve a spot 🖱

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/10-E12-](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/10-E12-vSP7xDm0hS78lrX4nQKS2czzkJV247x6WpXrg/edit?usp=drivesdk)

[vSP7xDm0hS78lrX4nQKS2czzkJV247x6WpXrg/edit?usp=drivesdk](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/10-E12-vSP7xDm0hS78lrX4nQKS2czzkJV247x6WpXrg/edit?usp=drivesdk)



## Yoga To Rebuild

Joint and Gut health

With Prabha

Date-26 Sept | 11:00 am

3 rd Oct | 11:00 am

Saturdays

@Avon congregational Church

6 W Main St,  
Avon, CT 06001

### Benefits

- Mobility
- stiffness reduction
- Improves digestion
- mood regulation



shwaasyoga.ayurved@gmail.com

shwaasyoga.com

# **First Friday Dinner**

at Avon Congregational Church  
6 West Main St., Avon, CT

**Friday, October 2, 2026**

**5:30 – 7:00 PM**

featuring

**4 - Cheese Rigatoni Casserole  
with Meatballs on the Side**

*along with Ciabatta Garlic Bread, Caesar Salad  
& our famous Dessert Buffet!*



**\$20/meal No Reservations Necessary**

*Serving 5:30 – 6:30 PM Dining till 7:00 PM*

**Take-Out Available Walk-Ins Welcome**

## **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](http://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](mailto:pastor@avon-church.org)

Karen Levan, Dir. of Music Ministries/Organist

[music@avon-church.org](mailto:music@avon-church.org)

Jolene Tefoe, Dir. of Avon Nursery School

[ans@avon-church.org](mailto:ans@avon-church.org)

Charry Salmon, Office Manager

[office@avon-church.org](mailto:office@avon-church.org)

John Carlson, Finance Administrator

[administrator@avon-church.org](mailto: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](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