



Avon Congregational Church's Electronic Weekly Newsletter

September 9, 2026

www.avon-church.org

Worship and Hospitality Volunteers for Sunday, September 13

Reader - Joan Miller, Trustee - Kent May, Usher - Ray Ramezzana,
Videographer - Nora Howard
Coffee Hour Host - Beth Ferrari, Food Provider - Beth Ferrari

Beginning in September, Coffee with the Pastor will take place the 2nd through 4th (or 5th) Wednesdays each month. Please note that there is no longer CWTP on the 1st Wednesday of each month, often when we are cooking for 1st Friday Dinners. Join us on Wednesday, Sept. 9 at 10 am at the Coffee Trade (21 West Main St.) Come by for conversation and fellowship. Pop in or stay for the hour. See you there!



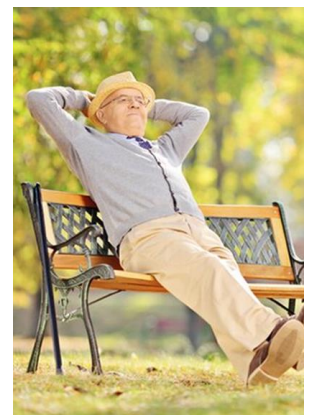
We are pleased to announce Sunday School is officially starting on September 13.

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



Retired Men's Discussion Group Starting Monday, September, 14th

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.



Have you ever wanted to make music with your hands and be part of a close-knit team? Our handbell choir is welcoming new members—no prior experience required!



The Low-Commitment Option: Not sure if you can make a year-long commitment? Join us for a short, seasonal project leading up to our special performance.

The Focus on Fun: If you can count to four and tap your foot, you can ring a bell! Come try out a fun, joyful, and welcoming group where everyone plays a crucial part. The first rehearsal “

Wednesday, September 16th at 5:30 pm, in the bell room. Open to everyone who wants to know how to play the handbells.

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 20th** in Fellowship Hall. Our Outreach Ministry will be working with Pathways/Senderos in this program year. See attached poster for more information.

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 28th, 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.

**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 2nd 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. 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 2nd, or make a delicious dessert for our famous "Dessert Buffet".

Bring your creatures, great and small, to the



Blessing of the Animals, Sunday, October 4th at 3 PM -

All creatures great and 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 or Kathy Hine at kathyhine@me.com



Mildred Leuteritz Remembered Pastor Warren Bouten reached out to Pastor Chris to inform our congregation that our longtime Church Administrator from years past has passed away. Mildred worked side by side with Denise Beeney and as Pastor Bouton shared, "They made a remarkable team!" Please keep the Leuteritz family in your prayers as they mourn and celebrate Mildred's life.



Mildred Eleanora Leuteritz, age 89, of Nashua, NH joined the angels on Thursday, September 3rd, 2026. She was born March 1st, 1937 in Lake Hopatcong, New Jersey, the daughter of Emily Julia Fuchs Mann and George August Mann. She was the beloved wife of Warren Earl Leuteritz for over 60 years; the loving mother of Chris Leuteritz and wife Debbi and Eric Leuteritz and wife Kimber; and cherished Oma to five grandchildren - Glenn, Robyn, Ryan, Connor, and Katie.

Nothing was more important to Mildred than family and friends. She loved spending time with the people she cared about. Her other truly happy place was in a garden or around flowers. She created and cared for one of the most amazing rock gardens while living in Simsbury, CT. At all of her residences over the years there were always beautiful plants and flowers. She thoroughly enjoyed

being outside walking with her husband searching for birds, plants, and nature's wonders large and small. If stuck inside you could find her crocheting, tending indoor plants, playing games, talking with friends, reading, meditating, or sitting by a window with the sun on her face.

She loved helping people whether through the church, Meals on Wheels, community programs, and more. She held a few jobs over the years, lastly working at the First Congregational Church in Avon, CT. But it was more important to her that she spend her time with family; when younger, taking the boys and friends to parks, the beach, ponds, lakes, nature centers, golfing, walking, and talking. She was a Den Mother for their Cub Scout packs, taught them how to cook, clean, volunteer, care for others, take care of themselves and mature into responsible adults, husbands, and fathers. Later, she was actively involved in her grandchildren's lives and activities passing along similar values. At the end of the day, it was always Warren. He was her true love, friend, and soulmate. They were rarely apart.



Mildred/Mom/Oma will be greatly missed!! A celebration of life will be held in the Carlisle Room at the Huntington located at 55 Kent Lane in Nashua on Monday, September 14th from 4:30 to 7:30. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to either the Lazarus House in Lawrence, the Audubon Society or a charity of your choice. Most importantly, she would want you all to spend more time with the ones you cherish as there is never enough *time*.



Help a Student of Ethel Walker Help Others.

Halloween Costume Drive to ensure every child in our community can enjoy Halloween this year! We are collecting gently used or new Halloween costumes. If you have any costumes to donate, please drop them in the collection bin here at the church. Thank you for your generosity!



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

Do you want to display your quilt to the show? Please register your quilt by completing the registration form using the link

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd2BezBTq9Qwt0-QeAhY3kUOFuSm6OQAKUIU6_7KTJLXwEUg/viewform?usp=header

Please contact Susan Elliott at shsellott@sbcglobal.net or 860-748-1775 with any questions. Quilt entries are due by September 15th.



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 to schedule your date. Thank you!



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.

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

FOLLOW US!





PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT FUNDRAISER



For: Avon Nursery School

PAMPERED CHEF FUNDRAISER

When: Sept 1st
through 30th



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

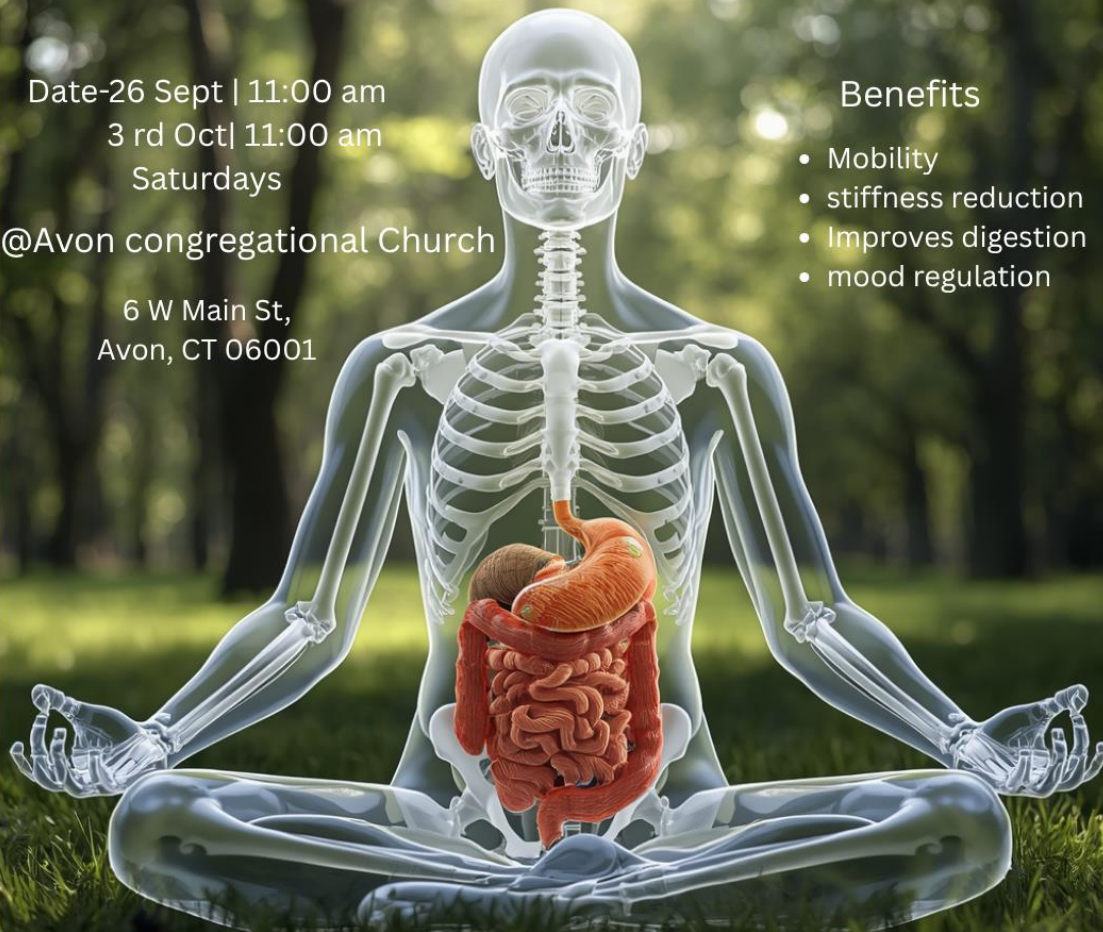
Saturdays

@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

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

Charry Salmon, Office Manager

office@avon-church.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

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