

Avon Congregational Church

Avon, Connecticut

United Church of Christ

Sunday, October 4, 2026

World Communion Sunday



Avon Congregational Church is to enable people to know God's unconditional love and to be a community of faith helping one another to live as Jesus Christ lived and taught.

GATHERED TO WORSHIP

MEDITATIVE THOUGHT

"The world has tried in two ways to get rid of Jesus: first by crucifying him, and second, by worshipping him. Jesus doesn't ask us to worship him. Jesus said, 'Follow me!'"

~ Rev. Harry Emerson Fosdick

PRELUDE

One Bread, One Body

by Foley

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

WORDS OF WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Chris Solimene

Name tags and name tag stickers are located in the narthex. **Large Print** hymnals, and hearing amplifiers are available from an usher. **We welcome children in worship.** Special activity sheets are available. Our Nursery is open Sunday mornings until after worship. **If you're visiting today**, we're delighted you're here! We invite you to help us know you better by filling out a pew card and dropping it in the offering plate. Please join us for coffee following the service in our Fellowship Hall.

INTROIT

"Amazing Grace for World Communion"

NEW BRITAIN

(solos spoken and sung by Leslie Desmangles, Carl Delmolino, Helena Sun, Kristin Garrison)

O Gnade Gottes, wunderbar, (German)
die mich Verloren fand!
Ich war blind, doch ich sehe klar,
ich bin an deiner Hand.

奇異恩典 我罪已得赦免 (Chinese)

Qui sauva un pécheur tel que moi (French)

Jag kommit hem, jag vilken var (Swedish)

War blind, aber nun sehe ich. (German)

(The Congregation)

Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound,

That saved a wretch like me;

I once was lost, but now am found;

was blind, but now I see.

CENTERING OUR MINDS AND HEARTS ON WORSHIP

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Karen Zaorski

**Please rise in body and spirit as able*

One: Come.

Many: Let us be God's community.

One: Come with love.

Many: The steadfast love of God never ceases.

One: Come with curiosity.

Many: We are one body, one planet, one Church.

One: Come with hope and a willingness to act.

All: As we gather today on this World Communion Sunday, let all Christians bind together; one community around the planet called to live out our faith as One Body. Amen

*GATHERING HYMN

The Church's One Foundation

AURELIA

**The church's one foundation is Jesus Christ her Lord;
She is his new creation by water and the Word.
One holy name professing and at one table fed,
to one hope always pressing, by Christ's own Spirit led.**

**Called forth from every nation, yet one o'er all the earth;
Our charter of communion: one God, one faith, one birth.
Yet she on earth hath union with God the Three in One,
And mystic sweet communion with those whose rest is won.**

**We now on earth have union on world communion day;
we contemplate the ways Christ's love is all our way.
Oh, happy ones, and holy! God, give us grace that we
May all, near, far or right here, the Church we are with Thee.**

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION

*GLORIA PATRI

By Creatorex

**Glory be our Creator
And to God's Son
And to God's Spirit, One!
As it was in the beginning
Is now and ever shall be
God's love is now!
Amen, Amen**

*SHARING OF CHRIST'S PEACE

WORLD PEACE

**Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me;
Let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be.
With God our creator, children all are we.
Let us walk with each other in perfect harmony.
Let peace begin with me; let this be the moment now.
With every step I take, let this be my solemn vow:
To take each moment and live each moment in peace eternally.
Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me.**

During our sung Blessing, children are invited to Church School

LISTENING FOR THE WORD OF GOD

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 10:25-37

New Testament Page 71-72

SERMON

"Mysterium Tremendum Part II"

Rev. Chris Solimene

RESPONSE OF GOD'S PEOPLE

*HYMN They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love Black Hymnal Pg # 2223

INVITATION TO SHARE

OFFERTORY ANTHEM "One World One Communion" by Choplin
sung by Gallery Singers and Carl Delmolino on percussion

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God for all that Love has done,
Creator, Christ and Spirit, One. Amen**

*UNISON DEDICATION

Gracious and loving God, who blesses us with so many good gifts, we bring these offerings before You now with humble hearts, praying that these gifts will bring joy and comfort to those who receive them. May our very lives be a blessing to You and to all those around us. Amen

PRAYERS OF GOD'S PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

"Our Father *, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen

(* Traditional translation, but please feel welcome to use alternatives such as "God," "Creator," or "Mother," as seems fitting for you!)

SHARING IN THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

This church shares God's extravagant love by practicing open Communion. All are welcome to partake. We use non-alcoholic grape juice and a gluten free option for bread is available from the center bowl on each bread plate. Children may participate as parents/guardians deem appropriate.

INVITATION

One: Friends, this is the joyful feast of unity. Christ has gathered us around the earth today to commune at this table. Across political lines and economic lines, in places of powerfully protected affluence, and among the poorest of the poor, we share a meal, remembering and celebrating the One who proved shalom possible. And so, come: all of you from the East and from the West, And all of you from the North and from the South. Come. Come with your doubts, come with your hopes, come with your inadequacies and with your strengths. But, do come in hope!

Many: This is the joyful feast of the people of God where all are invited and all are welcome. For in this place and at this time, God breaks into our lives: to change our hearts, to change our ways, to change our lives. As we are fed, with hope and joy, we recall that true communion means all the world is called to be nourished from one plate. Women and men, children and youth, come from the east and the west, from the north and the south, and gather about Christ's welcoming table.

**Refrain: One bread, one body, one Lord of all,
One cup of blessing which we bless.
And we, though many throughout the earth,
We are one body in this one Lord.**

Pastor: Gentile or Jew, servant or free, woman or man, no more. **R**

Pastor: Grain for the fields, scattered and grown, gathered as one, for all. **R**

All: Many the gifts, many the works, one in the Lord of all. R

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

THE STORY IS REMEMBERED AND THE BREAD AND CUP ARE SHARED

Sharing of the Bread

*Taken after all have been served,
signifying the communion of our church fellowship*

Sharing of the Cup

*Taken individually when served,
signifying each person's personal communion with God*

UNISON PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Bountiful God, we give You thanks for nourishing us with our daily bread in Christ's presence. Through Your love and by our care, feed the world with this bread. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another and send us forth in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

GOD SENDS US TO SERVE

*CLOSING HYMN

Shalom to You Now

SOMOS DEL SENOR

Sung twice: Once for those here in your midst. Then, again, for all in the world.

**Shalom to you now, shalom my friends
May God's full mercies bless you, my friends
In all your living and through your loving,
Christ be your shalom, Christ be your shalom**

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Postlude Siyahamba
Carl Delmolino on Drum

Zulu Folk Song

Please join us at the parsonage lawn for snacks and fellowship

All are Welcome joyfully and unconditionally!

As an open and affirming church, we welcome with pleasure all
who chose to worship with us today.

Feeling lonely, have a spiritual question, looking for a prayer partner or listening ear? For pastoral care, home or hospital visits, prayer or theological conversation, Pastor Chris is available by phone or email.

Prayers are requested for: Family and Friends of Charlyne Becker, Audrey Palmer, Theresa Dendell, Ed Barrett, Clark D., Judy Lennon, Karen Bergman, Paul, Elaine, Phil G, Robbin A, Hunt Alvord, Susan Closson, Jill Rizzo, Jim H., Lorraine Fenton-Anthony, Linda Ellsworth, Karen Merkle, Melissa Cyr, Michelle Troconis, and Satiyaraj

Worship Volunteers: Communion Elements: Sandy Lytle, Reader - Karen Zaorski, Usher - Charlie Zaorski, Trustee - Dick Lytle, Videographer - Donna Lynn Young, Coffee Hour Fieldtrip to Church Parsonage

Birthdays: (Sunday October 4- Saturday October 10) Roger Howard, John Carlson, Walter (Walt) Rusczyk, Gail Alvord

Church Calendar

Sunday 10/4	10:00 AM	World Communion Worship Service
Sunday 10/4	3:00 PM	Blessing of the Animals
Sunday 10/4	6:00 PM	AA Open Meeting
Wednesday 10/7	10:00 AM	Coffee with Pastor Chris
Wednesday 10/7	5:30 PM	Hand Bells
Wednesday 10/7	6:30 PM	Choir
Thursday 10/8	9:30 AM	Sew Thankful Quilters
Thursday 10/8	10:30 AM	Bible Study, Library
Sunday 10/11	10:00 AM	Worship Service
Sunday 10/11		Blessing of Stone Soup
Sunday 10/11	6:00 PM	AA Open Meeting

Announcements

Blessing of the Animals, Today, 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.

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.

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.

Our 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, Charry Salmon	office@avon-church.org
John Carlson, Finance Administrator	administrator@avon-church.org
Lenny Lebatique, Sexton	



Scan to Donate

Church Address: 6 West Main Street, Avon, CT 06001
Church Number 860-678-0488
Website: avon-church.org
Wifi PW: avonchurch

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 VanLoon; Members at Large – Fran Festa and Kate Rickson-McNally