



Avon Congregational Church's Electronic Weekly Newsletter

October 7, 2026

www.avon-church.org

Worship and Hospitality Volunteers for Sunday, October 11

Reader - Leslie Desmangles, Usher - Nora Howard, Trustee - Alex Harris,
Videographer - Kate Allen

Coffee Hour Host - Charlie Zaorski, Food Providers - Laurie Petrin and Kate Allen

Quilt Show Upon Us

Many thanks to all who have already been hard at work for our upcoming quilt show, which is an important fundraiser for the church this year. If you haven't already, please do signup on our hallway bulletin board this week and help!

Please also be sure to let your family, friends and neighbors know about the quilt show, craft tables and cafe so we're ensured a great crowd.

Thanks so much! Pastor Chris



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.

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 1st 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

Gaffney School Tutoring If you would like to help 3rd grade students strengthen their reading skills, please join our small team of volunteers who go on a weekly basis to Gaffney Elementary School in New Britain. We offer one on one time with an assigned student in each third grade class on **Tuesdays from 9:30 - 11:00 am**. If interested in learning more, please contact Beth Ferrari or Jane Keeney.

CHAIR YOGA Thursdays, October 15 to November 5 - 12:30 pm (45 minutes)
Practices based on Gentle movement, Breathwork and Relaxation



REGULAR PRACTICE BENEFITS

1. Joint Mobility & Ease of Movements
2. Cognition, Focus & Mood
3. Better Balance & Fall Prevention
4. Restful Sleep & Calm Nervous System
5. Connection & Community Wellness

All movements are slow, safe, and gentle

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

I have never done yoga before. Can I still join?

Absolutely. This practice is designed especially for beginners, seniors and individuals with mobility challenges.

You simply follow along at your own comfortable pace.

I have joint pain, arthritis, or stiffness. Is it safe for me?

Yes. All movements are gentle and low-impact, with modifications offered. Please always listen to your body and move only as feels comfortable.

How does breathwork help with sleep?

Our guided breathwork calms the nervous system, and relax body and mind.

Everyone is Welcome! Questions? Call 860.678.0488.

We are still accepting financial donations for the Quilt Show Café.

I still need to purchase 10 chickens and 16 dozen croissants to sell sandwiches.

Thank you for all you have done so far to support this endeavor.

We hope the cafe does well and sells out! Just note cafe: If you write a check, note CAFE in the "for" or clip a note to cash indicating that it's for the quilt show cafe. Questions? Contact Ellen Matos at 860-930-0173.



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.



October Stone Soup Please join us in the church kitchen on **Monday, October 19th at 3 pm** (*note the time change*) to make our yellow rice chicken casserole and corn bread for the clients of Loaves & Fishes soup kitchen in Hartford. All ingredients are provided and we only need volunteers to chop vegetables, make the rice and cook the chicken. If interested, please contact Beth Ferrari or Kathy Hine.

Sew Thankful Quilters/Quilts of Valor

Susan Elliott was honored to award two Quilts of Valor sewn by our Sew Thankful Quilters Ministry to two U.S. Air Force veterans. Bud Burke served from 1966-1969 during the height of the Vietnam War. He was stationed in Thailand and trained in aircraft radio communications. His grandson, Sean Burke enlisted in 2006 in the Air Force and after his honorable discharge joined the Connecticut Air Force National Guard training as a Fire Responder. He served two deployments with the 332nd Civil Engineer Squadron in Jordon. Today, he is a fire responder for the Bristol Fire Department and volunteers with the Harwinton Fire Department. Both very deserving veterans.



We also sent a quilt to Veterans Base Camp in Chaplin, CT to be awarded to a veteran. Charlie Zaorski who is a member of the Avon American Legion Post has a connection and got the quilt to them. It is our honor to provide these quilts to so many deserving veterans and active duty military personnel.

Betsy Van Loon was ACC's delegate to the Southern New England Conference of the United Church of Christ's annual meeting. She attended the meeting via Zoom and was able to vote electronically on all motions put before the delegates.

The Southern New England Conference had record attendance at its 7th Annual Meeting Sept. 25 - 27 at the DCU Center in Worcester, MA, and online. At least 800 people attended in person despite the nor'easter, and more than 200 were online.

On Friday, delegates approved the election of the new slate of officers and Board of Director members for the SNEUCC.

On Saturday, delegates were asked to consider three separate motions accepting the legal mergers of the historic Rhode Island Conference, the historic Massachusetts Conference, and the Missionary Society of Connecticut into the Southern New England Conference. Each historic board and the SNEUCC Board had previously approved the proposed mergers. Approval by SNEUCC's voting membership was an additional required step.

The Rhode Island motion was considered first. A proposal to postpone consideration for one year, with conditions concerning additional listening and healing, did not pass. Delegates then voted on the merger itself. In total, 381 delegates voted yes, 259 voted no, and there were 19 abstentions. Because the resolution required approval by a two-third margin, it did not pass.

Delegates next considered the Massachusetts motion, with amendments and further amendments offered during discussion. During a pause in business, the SNEUCC Board decided to withdraw both the Massachusetts and Connecticut merger motions from further consideration, meaning neither merger proceeded to a final vote.

This was a complicated meeting with definite tensions between delegates and the SNEUCC. If you have more questions, please reach out to Betsy either in person or at 860-604-4046.



Jolene Tefoe, Director of Avon Nursery School, sent this poster saying it is from one of her first students at Avon Nursery School who loves participating in these types of community events. If you have any used up or broken crayons, the bucket is located at the playground entrance. Please help out the local children's hospitals such as Connecticut Children's Medical Center. Thank you!

Support Crayon Recycling

Farmington Valley Girl Scout Troop 66037 would like to set up a collection bin at your location for broken and unwanted crayons. We are collecting old crayons for a wonderful non-profit organization called The Crayon Initiative. They melt down the old wax and remanufacture it into brand-new crayons, which they donate to children's hospitals, including Connecticut Children's Medical Center right here in Hartford, CT.

Your Participation...

Supports hospitalized children

One pound of broken crayons creates 5 boxes of new crayons for children facing tough health battles. Art offers them creative outlets for self-expression.

Protects the environment

Crayon recycling keeps tons of non-biodegradable wax waste out of local landfills and promotes eco-friendly habits.

Inspires

This project teaches others about recycling, sustainability, and community kindness.

Project Details

Our collection drive will run from Fall 2026 through Spring 2027.

Our troop will provide you with a Crayon Recycling Bin and empty it periodically throughout the year.

Contact Info



Nicole Marshall
Co-Leader, Troop 66037
Email: nsirriner@gmail.com
Phone: 585-410-2169



girl scouts 
of connecticut

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