

Avon Congregational Church

Avon, Connecticut

United Church of Christ

Sunday, October 11, 2026

Sunday Worship

"The 28th Sunday of Ordinary Time"



The mission of the 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 best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others."

~ Mahatma Gandhi

We are grateful for the musical gifts of Glen Halvorsen on organ today.

PRELUDE

Prière, III from Suite Gothique

by Léon Boëلمان

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

WORDS OF WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jerry Humble

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.

CENTERING OUR MINDS AND HEARTS ON WORSHIP

*CALL TO WORSHIP

written by Peruse Khachoyan

Leslie Desmangles

**Please rise in body and spirit as able*

One: We gather this day from many places and for many reasons. Our hearts are light, heavy, and everything in between. We come seeking guidance, peace, comfort, and community.

Many: We gather not because we must, but because we may.

One: We recognize layers of ourselves in the elements of worship, reflections of God in message and music connecting us more deeply to the Divine as God, in return, connects us more deeply to each other.

Many: We gather for the nourishing and transforming gifts that Mystery offers and, feasting on God's boundless love, are strengthened individually and as community of faith.

All: Let us now wholeheartedly worship God together, rejoicing that we may!

*GATHERING HYMN “Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise” (vs 1,2,3) Red #103

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Wally Eells

*GLORIA PATRI

By Greatorex

**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

Traditional Welsh Melody

**Go, all children, with our blessing, Never alone.
Here you learn how much God loves you, loved and God's own.
With your friends you'll hear God's story, listen well, this is your story.
Go all children, with our blessing, loved and well known!**

During our sung Blessing, children are invited to Church School

BLESSING OF STONE SOUP MINISTRY

Betsy Van Loon

One: As Christians, who follow the way of Jesus, we recall his challenge to the faithful to bring about the reign of God...

Many: “for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.’

One: Jesus, who multiplied the loaves and fishes and calls us to feed the hungry shows us the way to be, like him, the bread of life. Let us pray...

Many: God, who nourishes us in mind, spirit and body, we give thanks for the ministry of Stone Soup at Avon Congregational Church and we ask Your blessing on the continued work of feeding the hungry. We feed others, for what we do for the least of our neighbors, we do for You. Be with all who gather and plan these meals. Guide our preparation. Protect all who drive to deliver this food. Fill, both those who receive it and those who prepare and serve the meals with the knowledge, that when nourished through You, when we share, there is abundance for all. Amen

LISTENING FOR THE WORD OF GOD

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Luke 9:10-17
Romans 13:8-10

New Testament Page 69
New Testament Page 162

REFLECTION

“(Extra) Ordinary Time”

Betsy Van Loon

RESPONSE OF GOD’S PEOPLE

*HYMN “O God, Our Help in Ages Past” (vs 1,2,6) Red Hymnal Pg #117

INVITATION TO SHARE

Wally Eells

OFFERTORY

“The Church in the Wildwood”

by Dan Miller

*DOXOLOGY

Tune: Old Hundredth

**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

Ever present and loving God, Your Word tells us to cast our cares on You because You care for us. In faith and trust we present these gifts, and ourselves, to You. Bless and multiply them to meet the needs, both hidden and apparent, of Your beloved ones. Inspire each of us to live as Christ’s witnesses, trusting in Your Spirit to guide us, today and ever more. By the power of the Holy Spirit, we pray. Amen

PRAYERS OF GOD’S PEOPLE

Wally Eells

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!)

GOD SENDS US TO SERVE

*CLOSING HYMN "Forth in Thy Name, O Lord" (vs 1,2,3) Red Hymnal #438

*BENEDICTION Betsy Van Loon

POSTLUDE "Grand Choeur" (Abridged) By Theodore Dubois

*Please join us for refreshments immediately following Worship
in our Fellowship Hall*

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.*

Flowers are given today by Margaret Abbott in loving memory of her dear
mother, Ruth, who would have been 101 today!

Prayers are requested for: Joan C, 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: Reader - Leslie Desmangles, Usher - Nora Howard,
Trustee - Alex Harris, Videographer - Kate Allen
Coffee Hour Host - Charlie Zaorski, Food Providers - Laurie Petrin and Kate Allen

Birthdays: (Sunday October 11 - Saturday October 17) Lorraine Nahabedian
and Ben Banker

Church Calendar

Sunday 10/11	10:00 AM	Worship Service
Sunday 10/11		Blessing of Stone Soup
Sunday 10/11	6:00 PM	AA Open Meeting
Monday 10/12	10:30 AM	Retired Men's Discussion Group
Monday 10/12		Avon Nursery School Off
Tuesday 10/13	11:30 AM	FVA Meeting
Wednesday 10/14	10:00 AM	Coffee with Pastor Chris
Wednesday 10/14	6:30 PM	Choir
Thursday 10/15	12:30 PM	Chair Yoga
Friday 10/16		Quilt Show Set Up
Saturday 10/17	10:00 AM	Quilt Show
Sunday 10/18	10:00 AM	Worship Service
Sunday 10/18		Blessing of Called to Care
Sunday 10/18		Baptism: Loomis
Sunday 10/18	1:00 PM	Quilt Show
Sunday 10/18	6:00 PM	AA Open Meeting

Announcements

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.

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.

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.

A Recital on the Theme of Remembrance, October 25th, 1:30 pm Avon Congregational Church brings two outstanding professional musicians to perform in the intimate and welcoming setting of our historical meetinghouse. Teresa Campbell on violin. Walter Tambor on piano. From Faure and Mendelssohn to John Williams and Celtic folk music, this concert will be a memorable and meaningful musical experience. A suggested free-will donation of \$20 is suggested to benefit The American Heart Association

Meetinghouse Moment

by Nora Howard

The Avon Congregational Church 1889-1890

This is one of the two earliest photos of the meetinghouse, taken by Avon resident Frank M. Hadsell, c. 1889-1890. Photo is cropped to feature the Conference Room addition to the north, added in 1858. The horse shed - the parking lot of the day - is behind it with a carriage visible. Note the closed shutters, to cool the building on what looks to be a summer day.



Hadsell had it printed as a postcard to sell in his store (the small and unoccupied red building on East Main Street, near the Avon Museum). *Postcard by H.P. Foote of Canton. Collection of Dr. Lothar Candals, Avon Free Library History Room.*

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