

Avon Congregational Church's Electronic Weekly Newsletter

October 14, 2026 www.avon-church.org

"I cannot endure to waste anything so precious as autumnal sunshine by staying in the house."
-Nathaniel Hawthorne

Waking up in the parsonage, I could tell the sunlight was that special autumny sunshine – you know, the kind that seems a bit more brilliant and gives a certain 'sense of place' to all it shines upon. Taking this as more than a nudge from God to take a walk, I headed outdoors into the cool morning air.



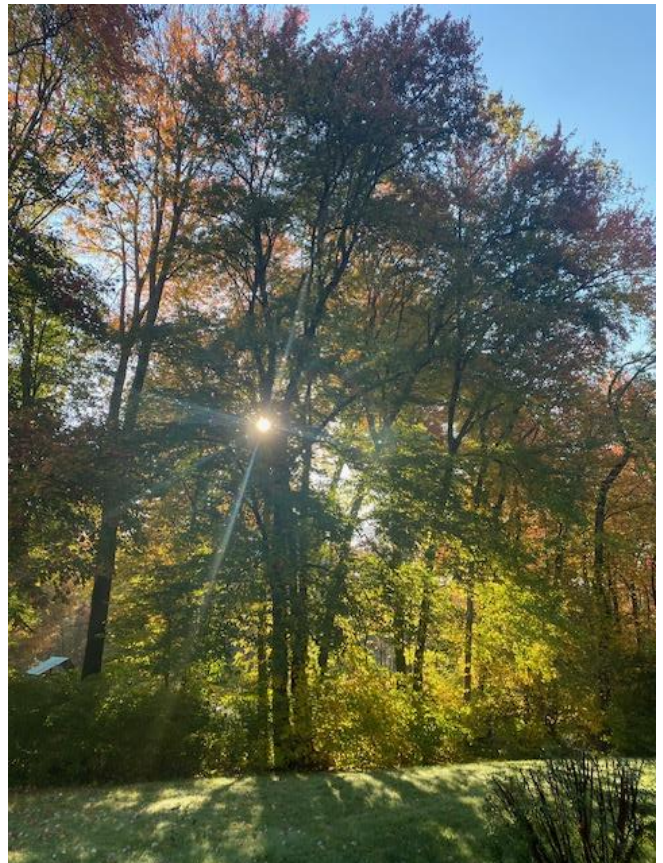
Beauty! It's a definition that can mean a lot of things these days. But, regardless of popular culture, I believe most can and would agree that the turning leaves – all those russets, reds, golds, yellow, browns and greens of the New England trees are a thing to behold. In a word, it is simply BEAUTIFUL!

The warmish morning after the cool damp night made the morning air a bit foggy, as if God's Stage Manager cued just the right amount of fog from Mother Nature's 'fog machine.' This made the sunlight stream through the trees with shafts of light – all the world afire and lit as if one huge magical movie set!

It reminded me, it's all a gift – life, the ability to sense nature and move about it - a miracle with which we are a part. This is true even amidst what we hear about the destruction sometimes caused by natural forces – storms, floods, droughts, fires from lightening. And, it reminds us too, we should work with and for what is most healthy for our planet so that nature can continue to be a gift and not become a burden!

Enjoy the gift. Enjoy the beauty and then go be a part of both the gift and beauty for those around you!

With Autumn Blessings, Pastor Chris



Worship and Hospitality Volunteers for Sunday, October 18

Reader - Candace Doersch, Usher - Bob Doersch,
Trustee - Betsy Van Loon, Videographer - Nora Howard

New Member Orientation, Sunday, November 8th, 11:30 AM - Does God call you to share your gifts in ways that will provide you with deep meaning? Do you seek lifelong friendships here with us? A New Member Orientation Lunch will be held on Sunday, November 8th, following the worship service. We warmly invite you to come and discover how you can become a member of our church community.

New Member Sunday, November 15th, during worship- On this special day new members are introduced to the congregation, who recognize their choice to join our journey of faith. A meaningful ceremony is held as part of the service. This is a joyful time that strengthens the bonds of the church community - we look forward to welcoming our newest members and walking together on the path of faith.

If you haven't already spoken to Pastor Chris, and you have discerned that God is calling you to be a new member here, please call 860-678-0488, ext. 11.



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.

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.

Saturday October 17 10:00 am-4:00 pm
Sunday October 18 1:00-4:00 pm
Admission: \$10; kids free

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.





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!



Toddler Adult & Child Classes Twoodles will be starting

Avon Nursery School is very excited to start their very own Toddler program, Twoodles. This class is for children ages two and up and will be a time for them with an adult to attend an hour-long program instructed by the Director Jolene Tefoe in our meeting room twice per month. We will sing, dance, and learn through developmentally appropriate activities.

Our first class will be Thursday, October 22nd. 10:00 am-11:00am. Children are invited to play on the playground after class. This is open to the community, so feel free to invite neighbors and friends. The cost of the class will be \$10.00 per child.

The members of our Toddler classes will also be invited to our family programs, such as Table 'or Treat and Harvest Feast.

Future dates for Twoodles class will be:

Thursday, October 22 nd	10:00 -11:00
Thursday, November 5 th	10:00-11:00
Thursday, November 19 th	10:00-11:00
Thursday, December 3 rd	10:00-11:00

*Please sign up by contacting Jolene Tefoe, Director of Avon Nursery School, at 860-845-3704 or ans@avon-church.org.

CHAIR YOGA Thursdays, October 22 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.

Correction: In the Meetinghouse Moment for Oct. 11, the name of the collector who owned the postcard of the Avon Congregational Church was misspelled. The postcard was from the collection of the late Dr. Lothar Candels.



Table or Treat Halloween Avon Nursery School HELP NEEDED ANS is looking for people to help with a "table or treat" event for the Nursery School. Come and decorate a table with a special theme or just your favorite Halloween décor. If you cannot attend, donations of candy and small toys for their "Table or Treat" can be dropped off in the church office **by October 28th**. Thank you!

ACC/Social and Environmental Justice Committee Educational Events!!

Censorship and Book Banning Can it Happen Here?

Showing "The Librarians" Emmy Award winning documentary. Tells the story of heroic librarians facing the rising threat of book challenges/banning in schools and public libraries. (92 minutes)

Sunday, November 1st & 8th

**Book Display in Fellowship Hall with Contextual Information
and an interactive activity.**

Sunday, November 15th

Lunch (pizza and salad) in upstairs classroom followed by film in library

Key Findings from the PEN America Report:

- Total Removals: The 11,982 bans affected 7,370 unique titles, and the work of over 4,000 authors, illustrators, and translators.
- Leading States: Texas and Florida due to state laws and political activism influence
- Common Themes: Race, racism, sexuality, and gender identity faced the most challenges.
- Most Banned Author: Stephen King - second year in a row
- Most Banned Book: The novel "Sold" by Patricia McCormick

Want more information about book challenges and bans?

Visit: <https://pen.org/report/book-bans-spotlight-2026/>



First Friday Dinner Friday November 6, 2026

Serving 5:30 – 6:30 PM

Dining till 7:00 PM

“Autumn in New England” featuring Glazed Roast Pork Loin with house made gravy, New England bread, cranberry & walnut stuffing with fresh herbs, Jennie’s House Made Apple Sauce, Tender Green Beans Almandine, Fresh Greens Salad with beets, apples,

walnuts goat cheese (on the side) and homemade champagne vinaigrette, Fresh-baked Dinner Rolls & our Dessert and Hot Beverage Buffet!

\$20/meal No Reservations Necessary Take-Out Available

A poster is attached to the E-Tidings for you to print and post at your favorite local store.

An Autumn Bible Study: Women In The Bible at Avon Congregational Church

November 10 & 17 6:30 PM – 8:00 PM in the church 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.

All are welcome

Avon Congregational Church presents another

First Friday Dinner

“Autumn in New England”

Friday, November 6, 2026

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



featuring

‘Glazed Roast Pork Loin’

Glazed Roast Pork Loin with house made gravy, New England bread, cranberry & walnut stuffing with fresh herbs, Jennie’s House Made Apple Sauce, Tender Green Beans Almandine, Fresh Greens Salad with beets, apples, walnuts goat cheese (on the side) and homemade champagne vinaigrette, Fresh-baked Dinner Rolls & our Dessert and Hot Beverage Buffet!

\$20/meal

**No Reservations Necessary
Take-Out Available**

Located in the church Fellowship Hall at 6 West Main St. Avon CT

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