

Avon Congregational Church

Avon, Connecticut

United Church of Christ

Sunday, October 18, 2026

Sunday Worship



Quilt by Susan Schroeder Elliott, in honor of her mother, Virginia Schroeder, 2007. Rose of Sharon center medallion, surrounded by Jacob's ladder pieced blocks.

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

"To quilt is to live in a world where beauty is created from scraps, and every thread tells a story."

— Jennifer Chiaverini

PRELUDE

Andante Larghetto

by Handel

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.

CENTERING OUR MINDS AND HEARTS ON WORSHIP

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Candace Doersch

**Please rise in body and spirit as able*

One: We are here because we have heard the call of God in our lives.

Many: **We are here to support one another in our calls and to rise up to new ways of living.**

One: We are here because we want to be God's people.

Many: **We are here to live into what God is calling us to be, individually and collectively in this community of faith.**

All: **We come with open hearts, seeking to be moved and then transformed by the Living Spirit. Let us worship with joy and purpose!**

*GATHERING HYMN "Lord, You Give the Great Commission" (vs 1 & 5)

Red Hymnal #584

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION

**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**

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM
for Emmett Robert Loomis

CONGREGATIONAL AFFIRMATION OF SUPPORT

**We affirm our unity with Christ and express our support of this family through
constant love, Christ-like example and faithful prayer.**

UNISON PRAYER OF BLESSING FOR THE NEWLY BAPTIZED

**Creator God, we give you thanks for Emmett. Embrace us all as children in the
one household of Your love, and grant us grace to receive, nurture and befriend
this newest member of the body of Christ. Give to Emmett strength for life's
journey, courage in the time of struggle, the joy of faith, the peace of love and
the hope of new life through Jesus Christ. Amen**

HYMN OF PRESENTATION: JESUS LOVES ME

**Jesus loves me! This I know,
As he loved so long ago,
Taking children on his knee,
Saying, "Let them come to me."
Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes Jesus loves me!
The Bible tells me so.**

PRESENTATION OF GIFTS BY THE CONGREGATION

**God Beside us, God behind us,
God above us, enter our hearts;
God within us, God below us,
God before us, never to part.**

During our sung Blessing, children are invited to Church School

LISTENING FOR THE WORD OF GOD

SCRIPTURE READING

Philippians 4:8 New Testament Page 198-199

SERMON

"All Around Us"

Rev. Chris Solimene

RESPONSE OF GOD'S PEOPLE

INVITATION TO SHARE

OFFERTORY

"Gentle Praises"
Played by The Celebration Ringers

by Eithun

*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

May these gifts, O God, become actions toward realizing the world as You would have it. And may our continued intentions always include fulfilling Christ's invitation to love as You love 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!)

GOD SENDS US TO SERVE

*CLOSING HYMN "Lord of All Hopefulness" Black Hymnal #2197

*A SUNG BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE "Finale" By Handel

Please return for our Quilt & Craft Show opening at 1pm. Refreshments in our Fellowship Hall will return next Sunday following worship.

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 Susan Closson, Rob Rudewicz, Joan C, Audrey Palmer, Theresa Dendell, Ed Barrett, Clark D., Judy Lennon, Karen Bergman, Paul, Elaine, Phil G, Robbin A, Hunt Alvord, Jill Rizzo, Jim H., Lorraine Fenton-Anthony, Linda Ellsworth, Karen Merkle, Melissa Cyr, Michelle Troconis, and Satiyaraj

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

Birthdays: (Sunday, October 18 - Saturday, October 24) Normand Keeney, Mary Norris, and Sarah Raus

Church Calendar

Sunday 10/18	10:00 AM	Worship Service
Sunday 10/18	1:00 PM	Quilt Show
Sunday 10/18	6:00 PM	AA Open Meeting
Monday 10/19	3:00 PM	Stone Soup
Tuesday 10/20	6:30 PM	Steering Circle
Wednesday 10/21	10:00 AM	Coffee with Pastor Chris
Wednesday 10/21	5:30 PM	Hand Bells
Wednesday 10/21	6:30 PM	Choir
Thursday 10/22	10:30 AM	Bible Study
Thursday 10/22	12:30 PM	Chair Yoga
Sunday 10/25	10:00 AM	Worship Service
		Reformation Sunday

Announcements

CHAIR YOGA Thursdays, October 22 to November 5 -12:30 pm (45 minutes)
Practices based on gentle movement, breathwork and relaxation. Everyone is Welcome! Questions? Call 860.678.0488.

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.

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

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.



Meetinghouse Moment - Jennie Boswell's Gavel After twenty years of service, Avon Congregational Church moderator Robert "Bob" August gave this gavel to his successor, moderator Jennie Boswell, in 1990. The inscription reads *To Jennie Boswell, Moderator 1990* and *The joys of your tasks will far outpace that occasional frustration. Bob August, Moderator 1970-1990. Avon Congregational Church 2-13-90* **Jennie served a 3-year term**
Thank you Jennie for donating this gavel to the ACC archives, 9/2026.

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	



Church Address: 6 West Main Street, Avon, CT 06001
Church Number 860-678-0488
Website: avon-church.org
Wifi PW: 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 VanLoon; Members at Large – Fran Festa and Kate Rickson-McNally