

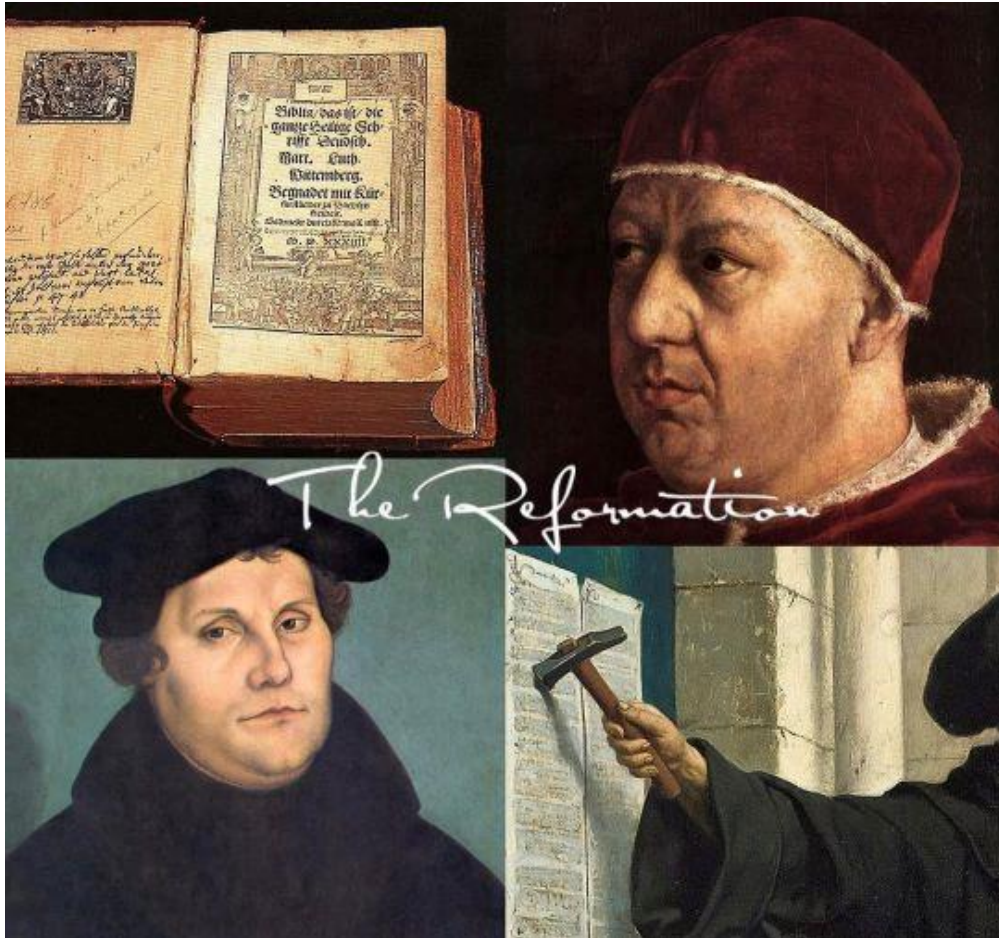
Avon Congregational Church

Avon, Connecticut

United Church of Christ

Sunday, October 25, 2026

Reformation Sunday



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 Reformer is always right about what's wrong. However, he's often wrong about what is right."

~ G.K. Chesterton

PRELUDE

Adoration

by Price

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

(inspired by Psalm 46)

Kent May

**Please rise in body and spirit as able*

One: The earth shakes, the mountains quake—tempting our hearts to fear.

Many: God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

One: Storms rage, winds swirl—even sometimes destroying schools, hospitals and homes.

Many: Still, God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

One: Violence comes in our communities and violence continues around the world—causing us to wonder if our prayers for peace are futile.

Many: Yet God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

One: For those mourning and rebuilding after the storms,

Many: God is our refuge.

One: For those living in fear of their neighbors,

Many: God is our strength.

One: For those dreading illness or the rancor of political strife,

Many: God is present.

One: Therefore, we will not fear.

All: We lay ourselves open to hope and worship our God.

*GATHERING HYMN

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

EIN' FESTE BURG

**A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing;
Our present help amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing.
For still our ancient foe does seek to work us woe
with craft and power great, and armed with cruel hate,
on earth without an equal.**

Choir to sing Verse as Interlude

**And though this world, with devils filled, should threaten to undo us;
We will not fear, for God has willed God's truth to triumph through us.
The prince of darkness grim, we tremble not for him;
His rage we can endure, for lo! his doom is sure;
one little word shall fell him.**

**That Word beyond all earthly powers forever is abiding;
The Spirit and the gifts are ours, for Christ is with us siding,
Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also;
The body they may kill; God's truth shall triumph still;
God's reign endures forever.**

*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**

**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

LISTENING FOR THE WORD OF GOD

SCRIPTURE READING Romans 1:7-17 New Testament Page 152

SERMON "God of Grace and God of Glory" Rev. Chris Solimene

RESPONSE OF GOD'S PEOPLE

*HYMN "God of Grace and God of Glory" (vs. 1 & 4) Red Hymnal #577

INVITATION TO SHARE

OFFERTORY ANTHEM "Lord Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word" by Luther
Sung by Gallery Singers

*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

**Reform our lives so that our faith may be built on Your rock, O God, and let
these gifts change the world into which we send them. Take our resources and
multiply them to be a blessing of justice and peace in the world You love!
Amen**

SHARING OUR JOYS & CONCERNS

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

"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.
From heaven he came and sought her to be his holy bride;
With his own blood he bought her and for her life he died.**

**Called forth from every nation, yet one o'er all the earth;
our charter of salvation: one Lord, one faith, one birth,
One holy name professing and at one table fed,
to one hope always pressing, by Christ's own Spirit led.**

**We now on earth have union with God, the Three in One,
and mystic sweet communion with those whose rest is won.
Oh, happy ones and holy! Lord, give us grace that we
like them, the meek and lowly, on high may dwell with thee.**

*BENEDICTION

A CHORAL AMEN

Amen

by Ramos

Sung by Gallery Singers

POSTLUDE

"Ein feste Burg ist unser Gott"

arr. by Raney

*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 Barbara and Otto Ruppert in appreciation of lasting friendships and changing seasons!

Prayers are requested for: 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 - Kent May, Usher - Judy McNally, Trustee - Dave Crowther, Videographer - Kate Rickson-McNally
Coffee Hour Host - Charlie Zaorski, Food Provider - Margaret Abbott

Birthdays: (Sunday, October 25 - Saturday, October 31) Miranda Garcia, Sarah Fogg, Donald Del Cegno, Joan Cooper, Otto Ruppert and Jerry Humble

Church Calendar

Sunday 10/25	10:00 AM	Worship Service
Sunday 10/25	1:30 PM	A Recital on the Theme of Remembrance
Sunday 10/25	6:00 PM	AA Open Meeting
Monday 10/26	5:00 PM	B&G Meeting
Wednesday 10/28	10:00 AM	Coffee with Pastor Chris
Wednesday 10/28	5:30 PM	Hand Bells
Wednesday 10/28	6:30 PM	Choir
Thursday 10/29	12:30 PM	Chair Yoga
Friday 10/30	9:00 AM	ANS Table or Treat
Sunday 11/1	10:00 AM	All-Saints Communion Worship Service
		Stewardship Sunday
Sunday 11/1	6:00 PM	AA Open Meeting

Announcements

Please join us today at 1:30 pm for A Recital on the Theme of Remembrance

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 "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!

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

\$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.*

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.

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