Avon Congregational Church

Avon, Connecticut United Church of Christ

Sunday, November 15, 2026

New Member 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

'Tis the human touch in this world that counts,
The touch of your hand and mine,
Which means far more to the fainting heart
Than shelter and bread and wine;
For shelter is gone when the night if o'er,
And bread lasts only a day,
But the touch of the hand and the sound of the voice
Sing on in the soul always.

~ *Spencer Michael Free*

PRELUDE *Theme and Variation* by Pachebel

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 & snacks following the service in our Fellowship Hall.

CENTERING OUR MINDS AND HEARTS ON WORSHIP

*CALL TO WORSHIP Gail Alvord

**Please rise in body and spirit as able*

One: The voice of God is calling us to come and to gather with all that we are and all that we carry to worship.

Many: Come! Let us worship!

One: We gather together with the baggage we carry, the joys we share, the griefs we bear, and the worries we hold.

Many: Come! Let us worship!

One: God calls us to gather, to receive grace in our gathering, and to reorient us again to the ways of God.

All: So, come, members of the family of God! Bring all that you are to be molded by grace, refocused toward Love, and woven together as community in Christ. Come Gather! Let us worship! Thanks be to God! Amen

*GATHERING HYMN "In Unity We Lift Our Song" Black Hymnal #2221

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION

*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 Red Hymnal # 328

Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place;
I can feel God's mighty power and God's grace.
I can hear the brush of angel's wings, I see glory on each face;
Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.

During our sung Blessing, children are invited to Church School

LISTENING FOR THE WORD OF GOD

SCRIPTURE READINGS Romans 12:1-8 New Testament Pages 161-162

SERMON *"All That is Said and Unsaid"* *Rev. Chris Solimene*

RECEIVING NEW MEMBERS LITURGY

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Maia Atzemis
Kirk Murdock
Jennifer Riggs
Kathryn F. Smith
Jeffrey A. Smith
Beth Terra
Lawrence Terra
Lilly-Beth Terra
Vincent Terra
Neil Testerman
Ursula Vinke

INTRODUCING NEW MEMBERS

*OWNING THE COVENANT

Affirming our Christian faith, we covenant with God and with one another, to walk together in all of God's ways, to work and pray for the realization of human mutuality and the reign of God in this world. We accept this church and its members as our own, and promise to support its mission, cooperate in the work of its ministries and pray to become what God will have us be.

*CONGREGATIONAL WELCOME

We greet you with joy as partners in the common life of this church. We pledge to you our Christian friendship and prayers as we share in the hopes and labors of the Church of Jesus Christ. God grant that we may continue to grow in knowledge, love and community.

RESPONSE OF GOD'S PEOPLE

*HYMN A Grateful Heart with Friends O WALY, WALY
(text by Pastor Chris)

A grateful heart with friends we bring;
a song of praise, our offering.
Among our friends we lift one voice:
in You, O God, with friends rejoice.

To be a friend, life's tender art;
One must be true in word and heart.
Reflect God's way of faith-filled love;
And blessings true come from above.

INVITATION TO SHARE

OFFERTORY ANTHEM " Welcome to God's Love" by Miller
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

Gracious God, we joyfully give: our time, devotion, hospitality and resources. Bless all our gifts so they may serve to further Your mission of blessing for all. 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 We All Are One in Mission Black Hymnal Pg #2243

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *Fanfare and March* by Purcell

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 Angela Scott and Carly Henderson in honor of what would have been Millie Scott's 96th birthday.

Prayers are requested for: Dale Galbo, Harvey Anthony, Audrey Palmer, Theresa Bendell, Walt Rusczyk, Ed Barrett, Paul M., Phil G., Jim H., Linda Ellsworth, Karen Merkle, Melissa Cyr, Rob Rudewicz, Michelle Troconis, and Satiyaraj

Worship Volunteers: Reader - Gail Alvord, Usher - Lee Egan, Trustee - Beth Ferrari, Videographer - Kate Allen, Coffee Hour Hosts - Sally Albrecht, Food Providers - Anne Woodling and Connie Osden

Birthdays: (Sunday, November 15 - Saturday, November 21) Grace Dawid and Lauri McBride

Church Calendar

Sunday 11/15	10:00 AM	Worship Service
Sunday 11/15		Sign ups for Thanksgiving Baskets Starts
Sunday 11/15		SEJ Lunch followed by a Film in Library
Sunday 11/15	6:00 PM	AA Open Meeting
Monday 11/16	3:30 PM	Stone Soup
Tuesday 11/17	6:30 PM	Women in the Bible
Wednesday 11/18	10:00 AM	Coffee with the Pastor
Wednesday 11/18	11:00 AM	ANS Harvest Feast
Wednesday 11/18	5:30 PM	Hand Bells
Wednesday 11/18	6:30 PM	Choir
Thursday 11/19	10:00 AM	ANS Twoodles
Sunday 11/22	10:00 AM	Worship Service
Sunday 11/22		Pledge Sunday
Sunday 11/22		Thanksgiving Food Due
Sunday 11/22		Gifts of Love Collection
Sunday 11/22	6:00 PM	AA Open Meeting

Announcements

November Stone Soup Please join us on **Monday, Nov. 16th at 3:30 pm** (note time change this month) in the church kitchen to make "Marry Me Chicken with Orzo". We are making this meal for the clients of Loaves & Fishes in Hartford who serve approximately 100 people a daily hot lunch Mon-Fri. All ingredients are provided; we only need volunteers. Please see Beth Ferrari or Kathy Hine if you have questions

An Autumn Bible Study: Women In The Bible - November 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**

Thanksgiving Baskets The Christian Service & Outreach committee will be sponsoring four Thanksgiving food baskets to benefits the clients of Avon Social Services. Sign-up sheets for individual food items are posted in the main hallway near the office. Items may be dropped off starting Wednesday, Nov 18th and no later than Sunday, Nov 22nd. Please store and label perishables in the refrigerator or freezer. Non-perishable items may be put in the marked collection boxes in Fellowship Hall. Your generosity is appreciated.
If there are any questions, please contact Lynn Del Cegno or Beth Ferrari.

Stewardship News – The Thanksgiving season is upon us; it's a time to reflect and be grateful for our blessings. November is Stewardship Month at Avon Congregational Church, a very important month celebrating our church blessings and planning and budgeting for our year ahead**. November 22nd - Pledge Sunday** (pledges received and blessed)

Service of Thanksgiving: A Meal of Gratitude - Tuesday, November 24 at 6 pm Members of various Jewish, Muslim and Christian faith communities fro m the Greater Farmington Valley are coming together at Memorial United Methodist Church for a wonderful soup & bread supper followed by an interfaith Service of Thanksgiving. Each faith community is invited to bring soups and breads of their tradition, which will be shared at 6 pm in the Fellowship Hall. At 7 pm, a Service of Thanksgiving, filled with song, prayer and spoken word from each tradition will center and ground us to add special meaning to Thanksgiving. Memorial United Methodist Church, 867 West Avon Road, Avon, CT 06001

Salvation Army Bell-Ringing - Jingle-jingle! Come ring the bells for Salvation Army on **Saturday, December 5th at Walmart!** Greeting shoppers with a cheery "Merry Christmas" is a fun and easy way to help those in need and 90% of the proceeds are used to support local residents! This is only a 1-hour commitment & no experience is necessary. You can bring a partner or we will find one for you, if you don't want to ring alone. Sign up in the hallway and Lynn Del Cegno will contact you with further details. Questions? Call Lynn Del Cegno: 860-690-9675.

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