

# E-Tidings

**Avon Congregational Church**  
**avon-church.org**



**July 3, 2024**

## A Part, Not Apart



Bibury Public Foot Path, England

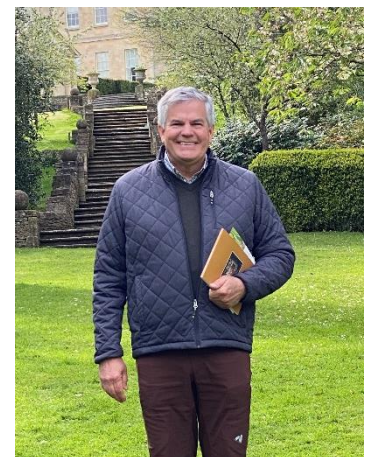
I missed you! We know the sabbatical time set aside for pastors is a designated “time away” from regular work responsibilities. It includes an intentional time for rest, reading, prayer, play, rejuvenating study and spiritual discernment. Returning from a three-month sabbatical will most certainly require the same intentionality in order to acclimate and assimilate. I liken it to adjusting to a new altitude when traveling to, say, mile-high Boulder, CO. Thoughtful and measured movements so one can catch a breath. The alternative is returning like reentry of Boeing's Starliner Space Capsule without being ready for ‘all systems GO!’

My initial thoughts on this include having the first few days to reach out to those in our church family who may appreciate spiritual care and a check in, whether by phone or visit – our homebound, grieving, those I know to be recovering or readying themselves for surgery. I'll then reach out and connect with church lay leadership – those new and returning to Steering Circle, and touch base on various aspects of church life, to be sure resources and TLC are

in place to do the most good for the many. Of course, I will also reconnect in meaningful ways with each staff member so all may feel empowered to offer their best for Avon Congregational Church and its many ministries.

However, what I feel may be most important as your pastor is to check in also with YOU! How are you? If these past few months have treated you and those you love well, I celebrate these blessings with you. However, if you have been facing a new or recurring anxiety, or you feel a pastoral visit would bolster your spirits, I implore you to reach out to me so we may set up a time - sooner than later - to meet.

In time, we'll all be able to catch up on each other's stories. Our conversations and my sermons in the coming weeks and months will surely include stories from our travels to Spain, England and France, as well as insights and inspirations my time away have offered. It was for Kent a special gift to have a spouse share for a while, his new-found retirement life. One on one, he may tell you a different story – like how he may privately feel newly retired since I've returned to you! :)



Buscot House, England



**The Waddesdon Estate, England**

In closing, let me extoll along with you my immense gratitude for Pastor Jennifer, who so ably and caringly stepped up to pastor this faith family. We have met and continue to dialogue with one another as we *Dosey Doe* so she and her family may *Promenade* home toward a time of vacation. Just as I was off and not 'reachable' during sabbatical, I encourage you now to allow her this time off in a similar manner.

I offer personal thanks to church Moderator, Susan Elliott, who made herself available and offered indispensable leadership for many aspects of managing our church – many I'm sure I don't even know about. Please let Susan know how appreciative you are for all she does.

Finally, I want to extend my thanks to our talented and amazing staff – Karen Levan, Jolene Tefoe, John Carlson, Kathy Smith, Gene Martin and Tom Keough – for their time, energy and heartfelt care for this church. It's a real blessing to know that we can rely on them.

While you've been missed by me, I continued to pray each day that even though we were apart, that God would support each of our efforts to do a part of creating Avon Congregational Church and the world as God calls us to be. It's good to be back!!

Blessings,  
Pastor Chris

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**Worship Volunteers for Sunday, July 7<sup>th</sup>** – Communion Elements – Jim Reed, Trustee – Norm Keeney, Reader – Ray Ramezzana, Usher – Don Del Cegno, Videographer – Nora Howard, Prayer Partner – Sue Crowther



**YOU Choose the Summer Sermon Topics** - What have you always wanted your church pastor to preach about? Typically, we follow the lectionary, not always, but typically. The lectionary is a collection of preselected bible texts from both the Hebrew bible and New Testament. Most Protestants and Roman Catholics use the lectionary, set up in years A, B and C to make sure of both variety and breadth of theological concepts are covered over the course of a three-year period.

Using summer as a recess from 'typical,' Pastor Chris invites you to email him your ideas for a sermon. Go ahead. Ask the toughies: Meaning of life? Why does God 'appear' to let bad things happen to good people? Ask for a sermon on your favorite bible story. Ask for a topic that may offer a spiritual and ethical perspective on a tough issue. Pastor Chris may not be an expert on your idea, but he'll attempt a thoughtful reflection on those sermon topics that you want to hear. And together we'll become more informed about your spiritual and religious wonderings! Email [Pastor@Avon-Church.org](mailto:Pastor@Avon-Church.org)



**Picnic at the Parsonage, Wednesdays, July 10<sup>th</sup> and August 17<sup>th</sup> at noon.** Pastor Chris welcomes one and all to the church parsonage for a midweek picnic on the lawn. This monthly gathering gives the 'Coffee with the Pastor' folks a summer rest as well as encouraging all ages to join us for fellowship and shared picnicking. Bring a chair and your own favorite picnic lunch. Is it raining or oppressively hot? No problem. We'll crank on the AC and picnic in Fellowship Hall. Call Kathy in the office at 860-678-0488 if unsure.

**Stone Soup** - Please join us in the church kitchen on **Monday, July 15<sup>th</sup> at 2pm** to make our hearty pasta salad for the clients of Loaves & Fishes soup kitchen in Hartford. We have lots of vegetables to chop. See you there! Contact Beth Ferrari or Kathy Hine if you have any questions.



**Summer Church Office Hours:** During the months of July and August the Avon Congregational Church office will be open **Tuesday – Thursday, 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.** Please continue to leave voice mail messages or send emails, and we will respond as soon as possible.

**Coffee with the Pastor, Wednesdays at 10:00 AM at the Coffee Trade continues to be on hiatus for the summer.** We hope to see you all at the 'Picnic at the Parsonage'!



**Summer Coffee Hour Volunteers Needed** - If you would like to host one of the remaining summer "Slimmed Down and Simpler" coffee hours, there are five dates still available: **July 28, August 4, & 18.** Please contact Beth Ferrari at (860)675-8246 if you have questions. There's a sign-up sheet by the office with additional information.

**July 20<sup>th</sup> Animal Rescue event** has been postponed. More information to come.

**ACC Photo Guide Update** – The 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of the church photo directory is available, and will be emailed along with today's E-tidings. Hard copies of the photo guide are also available in the church office and are \$5 each. Pick one up during summer office hours, or get one from Laurie Petrin on Sundays. Once again, the Worship Ministry would like to thank Dave Robbins and Karen Rowntree for all of their work on this latest edition.



# MISSION TRIP TO MAYFIELD, KENTUCKY – JUNE 22 - 30

By Beth Ferrari, Participant

**Twenty-one hearty souls** from Terryville, Farmington and Avon UCC churches made it to Kentucky on Sunday, June 23<sup>rd</sup>. Everyone jumped right into their projects the next day, Monday, June 24<sup>th</sup>. ACC parishioners Patti Nevin, Gabbi Carpentier and Beth Ferrari, worked on putting up insulation. The work will change throughout the week and other crews worked on installing doors, cabinets and flooring. It's a talented group! Gabbi even made a new special friend!



Kentucky Mission Trip  
Work Orders Meeting



Work site Leaders



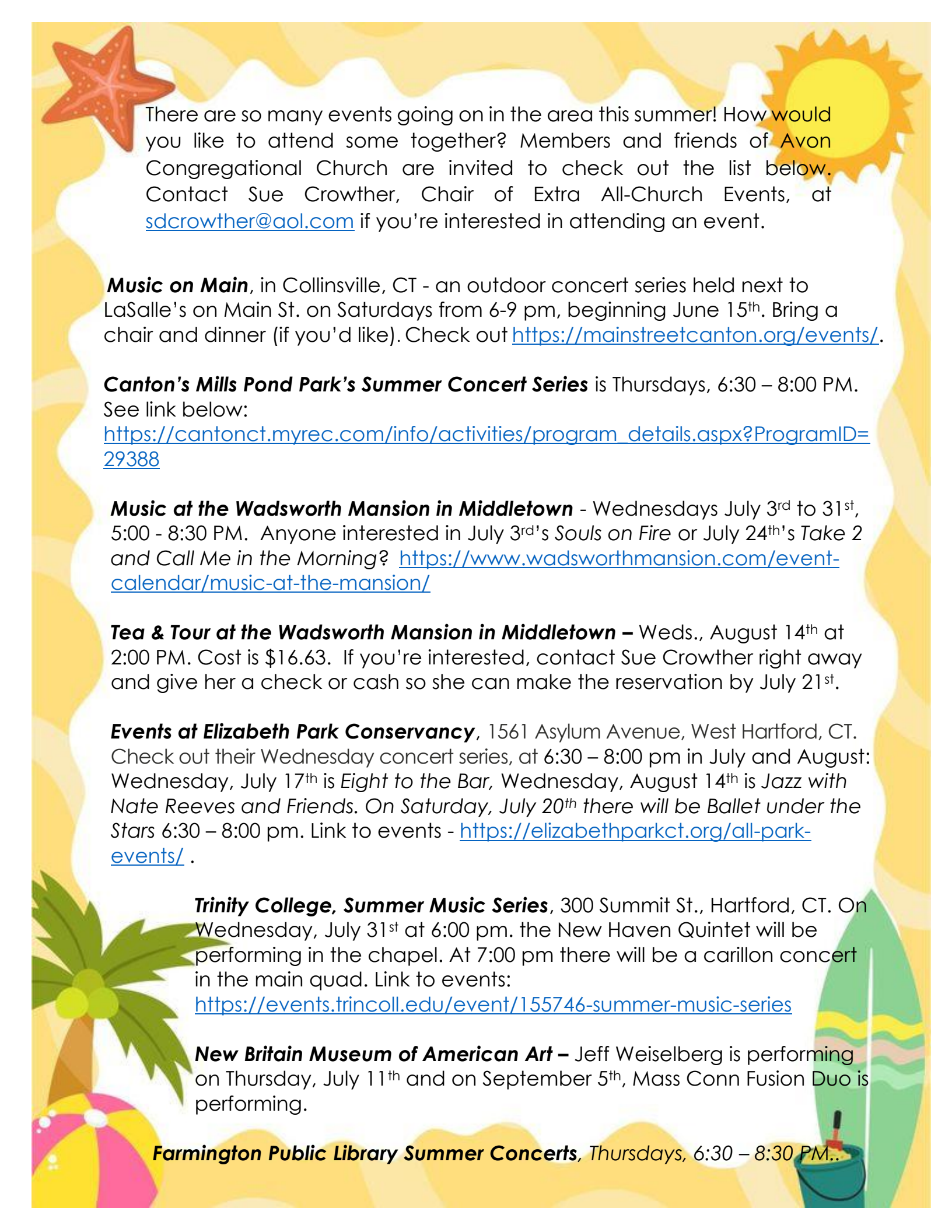
Before heading out...



We are zooming ahead with more projects and the Disaster Relief Team from the UCC conference is thrilled with the progress. Some teams have moved on to final painting projects and two homes will be completed. Others are working on flooring and ceiling insulation with drywall work starting tomorrow. Patti got a lesson on cutting floor trim and is helping that crew, and Gabbi and Beth moved on from insulating walls to painting. The group went to The Grind in Martin, TN for dinner on Wednesday that features outrageous milkshakes that mostly the teens tackled. We learned the December 2022 tornado was a mile wide but continued for 200 miles and wiped out almost everything in its path. A lot of empty lots remain. We are having a great time, but working full days!



We finished our work in Mayfield, Kentucky on Friday and headed home early Saturday for two long days of travel. We put in close to 900 hours of labor this week which was valued at \$28,300. Quite impressive! Our One Great Hour of Sharing donations have helped with community recovery efforts and the last two years the Kentucky-Indiana UCC Conference donated an extra \$20,000 each year to Mayfield's recovery. We realized like the story of the child throwing washed up starfish back into the sea that we couldn't save all of them but we made a difference to a few of them.



There are so many events going on in the area this summer! How would you like to attend some together? Members and friends of Avon Congregational Church are invited to check out the list below. Contact Sue Crowther, Chair of Extra All-Church Events, at [sdcrowther@aol.com](mailto:sdcrowther@aol.com) if you're interested in attending an event.

**Music on Main**, in Collinsville, CT - an outdoor concert series held next to LaSalle's on Main St. on Saturdays from 6-9 pm, beginning June 15<sup>th</sup>. Bring a chair and dinner (if you'd like). Check out <https://mainstreetcanton.org/events/>.

**Canton's Mills Pond Park's Summer Concert Series** is Thursdays, 6:30 – 8:00 PM. See link below:  
[https://cantonct.myrec.com/info/activities/program\\_details.aspx?ProgramID=29388](https://cantonct.myrec.com/info/activities/program_details.aspx?ProgramID=29388)

**Music at the Wadsworth Mansion in Middletown** - Wednesdays July 3<sup>rd</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup>, 5:00 - 8:30 PM. Anyone interested in July 3<sup>rd</sup>'s *Souls on Fire* or July 24<sup>th</sup>'s *Take 2 and Call Me in the Morning*? <https://www.wadsworthmansion.com/event-calendar/music-at-the-mansion/>

**Tea & Tour at the Wadsworth Mansion in Middletown** – Weds., August 14<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 PM. Cost is \$16.63. If you're interested, contact Sue Crowther right away and give her a check or cash so she can make the reservation by July 21<sup>st</sup>.

**Events at Elizabeth Park Conservancy**, 1561 Asylum Avenue, West Hartford, CT. Check out their Wednesday concert series, at 6:30 – 8:00 pm in July and August: Wednesday, July 17<sup>th</sup> is *Eight to the Bar*, Wednesday, August 14<sup>th</sup> is *Jazz with Nate Reeves and Friends*. On Saturday, July 20<sup>th</sup> there will be *Ballet under the Stars* 6:30 – 8:00 pm. Link to events - <https://elizabethparkct.org/all-park-events/>.

**Trinity College, Summer Music Series**, 300 Summit St., Hartford, CT. On Wednesday, July 31<sup>st</sup> at 6:00 pm. the New Haven Quintet will be performing in the chapel. At 7:00 pm there will be a carillon concert in the main quad. Link to events:  
<https://events.trincoll.edu/event/155746-summer-music-series>

**New Britain Museum of American Art** – Jeff Weiselberg is performing on Thursday, July 11<sup>th</sup> and on September 5<sup>th</sup>, Mass Conn Fusion Duo is performing.

**Farmington Public Library Summer Concerts**, Thursdays, 6:30 – 8:30 PM..

## **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/UC9C9s7fZ28HKpSllaogGzfQ>

For information about Avon Congregational Church, click on the following link:

**The Avon Congregational Church Website**

[www.avon-church.org](http://www.avon-church.org)

**Most events and lots of pictures are often posted to our ACC Facebook Page**

## **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	<a href="mailto:pastor@avon-church.org">pastor@avon-church.org</a>
Rev. Jennifer McCleery, Associate Pastor	<a href="mailto:pastorj@avon-church.org">pastorj@avon-church.org</a>
Karen Levan, Dir. of Music Ministries/Organist	<a href="mailto:music@avon-church.org">music@avon-church.org</a>
Jolene Tefoe, Dir. of Avon Nursery School	<a href="mailto:ANSDirector2@gmail.com">ANSDirector2@gmail.com</a>
Kathy Smith, Office Manager	<a href="mailto:secretary@avon-church.org">secretary@avon-church.org</a>
John Carlson, Finance Administrator	<a href="mailto:administrator@avon-church.org">administrator@avon-church.org</a>
Gene Martin, Sexton	
Tom Keough, Sexton	

Church Address: 6 West Main Street, Avon, CT 06001

Church Phone Number 860-678-0488

Church Website [www.avon-church.org](http://www.avon-church.org)

Church Wi-Fi: avonchurch



Scan for giving

## **Steering Circle 2024 – 2025**

Moderator – Susan Elliott; Treasurer – Bob Linderman; Clerk – Jerry Humble;  
Worship – Sue Crowther and Laurie Petrin; Nurturing – Donna Lynn Young  
and Lee Egan; Outreach – Marcia Cox and Patti Nevin; Support – Beth Ferreri and  
Betsy Van Loon; Members – at - Large – Sally Albrecht and Don DelCegno