



August 21, 2024

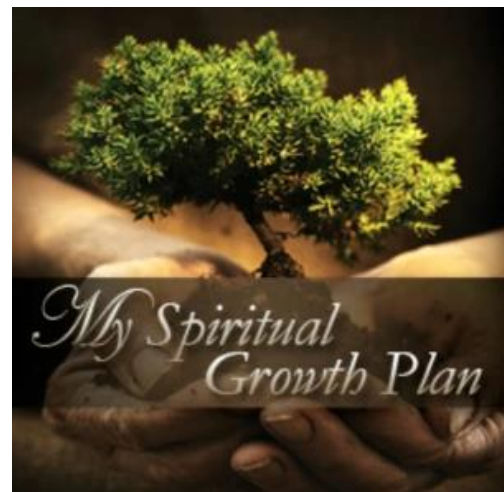
## Your Spiritual Journey Now!

September 19, 26 and October 3. 10:30 am Church Library

*Life Lessons, When Bad Things Happen, The Power of Now*

Using the abstracts (or summary notes) from three well-known spirituality writers, Pastor Chris invites us to delve into deeper meaning to be made in the power of this moment to transform your life.

Elisabeth Kübler-Ross, a renowned psychiatrist and author, presents *Life Lessons*, practical and spiritual lessons that urge us not to wait until the end of our lives, to learn lessons that we can learn now. She shares ideas to help us find greater peace and understanding.



Tragedy and loss are certainties. As we try to make sense of what's happened, we usually have a torrent of questions and emotions. Rabbi Harold S. Kushner presents *When Bad Things Happen to Good People*. Here we find a pragmatic approach to dealing with feelings and questions around grief and loss as well as a new understanding of how can God allow such suffering.

Eckart Tolle, a renowned spiritual teacher and author, presents his central teaching in *The Power of Now*. We are wired to fret about the past or the future, and these negative feelings and often false beliefs pull us out of living in the present. Hence, we waste precious time, and squander potential moments of joy and wonder. This reading can help us reclaim a deep sense of peace and well-being.



# **“GATHER-IN” SUNDAY PICNIC POTLUCK**

## **Sunday, Sept. 8<sup>th</sup>**

**following worship**

**Enjoy fellowship, food and fun with your  
friends at Avon Congregational Church!**

### **Welcome Back!**

**All are invited to our annual “Gather-In”  
Picnic Potluck, to celebrate the arrival  
of a new program year!**

**Bring a dish to share – If your last name begins with  
A-S, please bring a Main Dish to share, last names  
beginning with T-Z, please bring a dessert to share.  
We will provide cold drinks.**

**See you in September!**



**Worship and Hospitality Volunteers for Sunday, August 25** - Trustee – Norm Keeney, Usher – Edyth Bergman, Videographer – Tom Transue, Prayer Partner – Bob Linderman, Hospitality – Bob and Terri DiRusso and Jane Keeney



**To parents/guardians of our children and youth – We can't wait to say, "Welcome Back!" to Sunday School children on September 8<sup>th</sup> at 10 am! Their teachers can't wait to see them!** Special welcome packets will be mailed to last year's students on August 27. Each will contain registration forms and a meaningful craft to bring back to church on the first day of Sunday School – Sept. 8<sup>th</sup>. If you are new and would like to receive a packet for your child, contact the church office at [secretary@avon-church.org](mailto:secretary@avon-church.org).

**Mark your calendars! Coffee with the Pastor** will start up again on **Wednesday, Sept. 11 at 10 am** at the Coffee Trade (21 West Main St.) Come by for conversation and fellowship. Pop in or stay for the hour. See you there!



**Safe Church Training on Sunday, September 15<sup>th</sup>, 11:15 AM in the library** – This is required training for all volunteers who will be teaching Sunday School and/or covering the Church Nursery this year. Contact Pastor Chris at [pastor@avon-church.org](mailto:pastor@avon-church.org) to sign up.

**Coffee Hour Coverage** – Thank you to all who volunteered to host coffee hour already – we're very grateful! **There are 3 empty spots** on the coffee hour sign up on the main hall bulletin board – just 3! Otherwise, we're covered from September 2024 to June 2025! This is amazing – won't you please consider hosting coffee hour on one of these dates? Imagine never reading an announcement like this one for a whole year! If available to volunteer, please contact Beth Ferrari at 860 675-8246. Thank you!



**More events coming up in September – Save the following dates:**

- **Wednesday, September 11 at 7:30 PM** - Gallery Singers rehearsals begin, following the Choir and Handbell Potluck at 6 PM in Fellowship Hall.
- **Thursday, September 12 at 9:30 AM** - Sew Thankful Quilters begins.
- **Wednesday, September 18 at 5:30 PM** - Celebration Ringers rehearsals begin.





**From Betsy Van Loon - Please join me on Thursday, September 5th at 12 noon** for a picnic lunch in Fellowship Hall to celebrate "Turn Around Day". In September, I will be walking a section of El Camino in Spain. This is part of the pilgrimage route to Santiago de Compostela in Galicia. People have been walking this sacred way since the 9th century to see the bones of St James buried (at least as the story goes) in the Cathedral.

To prepare for this adventure, I will walk from my house in Simsbury on 9/5 to ACC. That is about 6 miles. I would love to have friendship and fellowship at lunch time and then I will **Turn Around** and walk back home!

**Looking for a relaxing activity?** Coloring pages with inspirational quotes are available for you to work on during coffee hour or to take home anytime and color. Pages are located on a table in Fellowship Hall. If you bring it home, be sure to **return it by Sept. 8th** so we can add it to our display at the Homecoming Potluck following the September 8th service. Art supplies are available to borrow. Sponsored by the Nurturing Ministries.



**East Avon Cemetery Ground-Penetrating Radar Study to be Repeated – Date TBD** - The East Avon Cemetery Association, in partnership with the Avon Historical Society, received a grant to conduct a ground penetrating radar study of a corner of the cemetery. Of interest was the area containing the stone honoring Pvt. Leverett Holden, a Civil War Soldier of the CT 29th Colored Infantry Regiment. Several church members attended the early-morning information session on Aug. 12, 2024, with Jordan Tabolt and his assistant Kevin from Archaeological and Historical Services, Inc.

The soundwave information collected by the device that looks like a lawn mower will be analyzed on a computer. The results will show only disturbances in the ground, no actual remains. A report from the archaeologists at AHS Inc., is forthcoming. The questions it will answer include: is Leverett Holden's stone a memorial stone, or a grave marker? Are other unmarked burials in that area? We are seeking answers to these questions because Pvt. Holden's stone has recently been placed on the CT Freedom Trail, and a thorough examination of the area will help to document Pvt. Holden's life. *Group photo by DeKey; others by Nora Howard.*

Nora O. Howard  
ACC Historian





**The Outreach Ministry has three “hands-on” on-going opportunities** open to members and friends of the church. Please contact the co-chairs Patti Nevin or Marcia Cox if interested in participating or trying out one time as a substitute.

Loaves & Fishes soup kitchen monthly food serving takes place on the 4th Monday each month at Immanuel Congregation in Hartford. Carpooling is available from ACC. Shifts are available from 10-1 or 11-1.



Gaffney Elementary School in New Britain weekly tutoring program helps 3rd graders strengthen their reading skills. This program is a weekly 1 1/2-hour commitment during the school year plus travel time for this one-on-one program. Carpooling from Avon is available.



ACC members started helping with the Hands On Hartford weekend food backpack program during the Covid pandemic. The program fills bags with ready to eat foods that are distributed to 225 students at 12 schools in Hartford. This weekly Wednesday morning commitment during the school year is shared with several ACC volunteers on a rotating basis. It involves some physical lifting and standing on your feet for approximately two hours. Carpooling from ACC is available. An added bonus is having lunch at Gather55 afterwards.



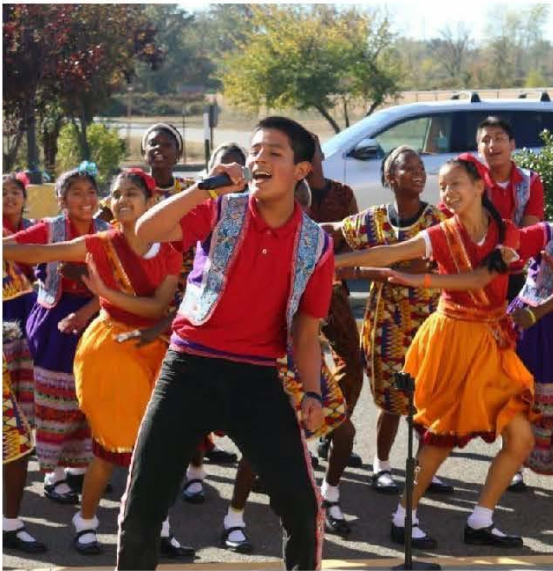
**Volunteers Needed** - Lorraine Nahabedian is looking for volunteers who would be willing to pick up and deliver Community First School's lunch. She is presently in need of a person to cover Mondays and would like a few folks to be on standby to cover the Tuesday through Friday volunteers if they are away or are ill and can't do their scheduled day . Please email Lorraine at [Lorrainenahabedian53@gmail.com](mailto:Lorrainenahabedian53@gmail.com) if you can possibly help us serve the school in this way. The food is picked up at House of Bread, 27 Chestnut Street, Hartford, CT. The delivery is at the school, which is located at 50 Love Lane, Hartford, CT.



**First Congregational Church, Canton Center**  
184 Cherry Brook Road, Canton, CT  
is hosting

# **The Matsiko World Orphan Choir**

*A choir of International Children's Network*



### *Performance Times:*

**Saturday, September 14<sup>th</sup> - 7:00 - 8:00 PM**

**Sunday, September 15<sup>th</sup> - 2:00 - 3:00 PM**

**All are invited – Tell Your Family & Friends!**

Energetic youth will perform dynamic cultural dances and singing in full vibrant costumes along with giving inspirational and moving testimonies about how they have overcome some of the most difficult of circumstances.

Doors will open a half hour before each performance for people to view and purchase items brought from Liberia, Africa.

A 'free will offering' will be taken at the end of the performance. Questions? Contact the Church Office at 860-693-4581 or Rev. Kurt Satherlie at 860-944-5158.



**I SUPPORT LITERACY &  
THE HARTFORD BOOK FESTIVAL**

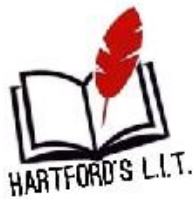


# **HARTFORD BOOK FESTIVAL**

**Free Family Fun  
Free Giveaways  
Book Sales  
Unique vendors  
Workshops  
Literary Artists  
Storytelling  
Poetry**

**September 21st 2024**

**Hartford Public Library  
500 Main Street  
Hartford CT.**



**Hartfordslit.com**

**Penning and Reading More in 2024**

## **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](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

[pastor@avon-church.org](mailto:pastor@avon-church.org)

Rev. Jennifer McCleery, Associate Pastor

[pastorj@avon-church.org](mailto:pastorj@avon-church.org)

Karen Levan, Dir. of Music Ministries/Organist

[music@avon-church.org](mailto:music@avon-church.org)

Jolene Tefoe, Dir. of Avon Nursery School

[ANSDirector2@gmail.com](mailto:ANSDirector2@gmail.com)

Kathy Smith, Office Manager

[secretary@avon-church.org](mailto:secretary@avon-church.org)

John Carlson, Finance Administrator

[administrator@avon-church.org](mailto:administrator@avon-church.org)

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