

E-Tidings

Avon Congregational Church
avon-church.org

October 9, 2024



Interested in becoming a member of Avon Congregational Church?
Join Pastor Chris and Pastor Jennifer at our two membership events
on Nov. 3rd & 10th, following worship!

New Member Orientation, Sunday, Nov. 3rd, following worship - 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 3rd, following the worship service. If you haven't already spoken to Pastor Chris or Pastor Jennifer, and you have discerned that God is calling you to be a new member here, please call 860-678-0488, ext. 11.

New Member Sunday, November 10th during worship - **This is the day when the congregation recognizes your choice** to join our journey of faith. Please reach out to Pastor Chris or Pastor Jennifer if you would like a conversation or have questions regarding your interest in becoming a new member of Avon Congregational Church. Indeed, God has a plan for you!



Worship and Hospitality Volunteers for Sunday, October 13 - Trustee – Laurie Petrin, Reader – Leslie Desmangles, Usher – Dave Robbins, Videographer – Tom Transue, Prayer Partner – Kate Allen, Host & Hospitality – Laurie McBride & Cindy Stanfield



Coffee with the Pastor, Wednesdays at 10:00 AM at the Coffee Trade (21 West Main St.) Come by for conversation and fellowship. Pop in or stay for the hour. If you haven't tried it, check it out – we have lots of fun! See you there!



A friendly reminder for our Sunday Worship Volunteers – It is your responsibility to check the calendar that was emailed to all in September, to see when you are listed as a volunteer. If you are unable to make it that day, you are asked to see your calendar and call another volunteer (names/numbers on first page of calendar) to ask if they can substitute. We appreciate all our volunteers! Thank you for all you do!

October Stone Soup, Monday, October 14th at 2 pm - Please join us in the church kitchen to make our yummy, yellow rice chicken casserole for the clients of Loaves & Fishes soup kitchen in Hartford. Help is needed to sauté vegetables, cook the chicken and rice, and make corn bread. If you have any questions, please contact the Outreach co-leaders Patti Nevin and Marcia Cox.



Family Night at Avon Congregational Church – All are invited to join us for a Cozy Quilt Llama Farm Meet & Greet on **Tuesday Oct. 15 at 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.** Everyone is welcome at our special family event in Fellowship Hall. We will have a special guest llama to pet and take pictures with while Mrs. Tefoe (Director of ANS) reads “Llama, Llama”, a story book. There will be snacks and time for socializing with other

families. Questions? Contact our Avon Nursery School Director, Jolene Tefoe at 860-678-1267 or ANS@avon-church.org.

Avon Nursery School is looking for donations of candy and small toys for their “Trunk or Treat” event for their children on October 30th. Please drop donations off in the church office **by October 28th**. Thank you!



Many thanks to Beth Ferrari, Charlie Zaorski and Wally Eells for pitching in and adding new mulch to our Avon Nursery School playground! Children using the slide will have a soft landing.

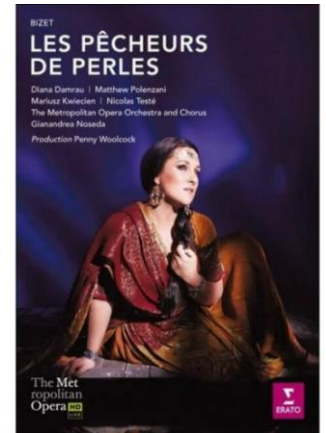
With all these beautiful October days, our nursery school children play outside every day – the children, parents and teachers very much appreciate the efforts of our volunteers!



Bible Study Opportunity beginning Thursday, October 17th, 10:30 AM – Noon, in the church library. Join Pastor Jennifer on Thursday mornings for a fascinating study on the Gospel of John. The fourth of the gospels, John's is the only one not to be considered a Synoptic Gospel. With its own distinct style and theological aims, John does not merely narrate the events of Jesus, but shapes

those events to offer a distinct theological interpretation. Because of its special theological character, the Gospel of John has been considered since ancient times to be the "Spiritual Gospel." Come to any or all of these studies to learn more about this book, and see how the story of Jesus told in symbolic ways can lend richness and meaning to our spiritual journeys. Classes held for five weeks.-- October 17, 24, 31 and Nov. 7 & 14. Sign up on main hall bulletin board. The first meeting will be held in the Church Library. All welcome!

A Day at the Opera featuring Georges Bizet's "Les Pêcheurs de Perles" (The Pearl Fishers), Sunday, October 20th, 11:45 PM – All are invited to the viewing of "the Pearl Fishers", an opera in three acts by the French composer Georges Bizet. It was first performed on September 30, 1863 in Paris, and was given 18 performances in its initial run. Set in ancient times on the island of Ceylon, the opera tells the story of how two men's vow of eternal friendship is threatened by their love for the same woman, whose own dilemma is the conflict between secular love and her sacred oath as a priestess. Sign up on the main hall bulletin board. Questions? Contact Leslie Desmangles at ldesmangles@gmail.com.



Classic Movie Night, October 25 at 6:00 PM - Join us in Fellowship Hall for a showing of Nightmare Alley, with Tyrone Power. Light refreshments will be served. Admission is free. Questions? Contact Ray Ramezzana at curlyqlink115@aol.com.

First Friday Dinner at Avon Congregational Church, 6 West Main St., on November 1st at 5:30 – 7:00 PM. Join us for a family favorite, **Chicken Pot Pie**. A Vegetarian Chicken (plant-based) Pot Pie will also be available. This month's entrée is served with biscuits and salad, and includes our fabulous dessert buffet, and coffee or tea. **The dinners are \$17.** No reservations necessary. Take-out is available. For more information, call the church office at 860-678-0488 or email us at secretary@avon-church.org.



Sign up on the main hall bulletin board if you'd like to help cook, set-up, serve or clean-up at the First Friday Dinner on November 1st, or make a delicious dessert for our famous "Dessert Buffet". Many hands make light work!

New Sign By Route 10 Doorway - Just in time for our "New Year" after September 8's "Gathering-in-Sunday" is this beautiful sign at the Rt. 10 doorway! It matches all of the other exterior signage.



This sign was made possible by loving donations in memory of Lillian Clark, Blair Elliott, and Ethel Kotarba. Our thanks to Beth Ferrari for the idea, to Pastor Chris who designed the sign, to Chris Moore who custom-made the sign (and attached it to the wall), and to Yush Sign Co.'s Lorrie Davenport who painted and lettered it. As Pastor Chris noted in his sermon on Sunday, having good signage is key to offering hospitality! *By the Special Gifts Ministry: Edie Bergman, Carol Burnham, Beth Ferrari, Nora Howard, Kent May*



Free Items available – Parishioner Brenda Transue has two sets of relatively new, clean twin mattresses/boxsprings to give away. Also, an antique steel cabinet from Hartford Special Machinery, has 35 drawers, 3 sections, and would be ideal for someone's workshop. Contact Brenda at adnerb36@comcast.net for more information or to arrange pick-up. Items are free.

Fellowship Opportunities in October and November

Mark Twain House & Museum Living History Tours: Saturday, October 12 @ 12:45 or 2:45. Gather a few friends and head over to the Mark Twain House & Museum at 351 Farmington Ave., in Hartford on October 12th, for one of their "Living History Tours" on October 12th. These are special tours. Go to this link to purchase tickets: <https://marktwainhouse.org/admission/> . Aaron Scott, who occasionally sings in the choir, will be performing the character of a butler during the tour!



**LEGALLY
BLONDE**
The Musical

Legally Blonde is being performed by the Theatre Guild of Simsbury on Sun., Nov. 10 @ 2 pm. Contact Sue Crowther asap, as she was able to buy a block of 4 tickets for \$28 ea. for Sun., Nov. 10 @ 2 pm, if you're interested in going together. Also, let Sue know if you'd like to gather with a bag lunch in Fellowship Hall beforehand, or just meet at the show, which takes place in Simsbury High School's auditorium.

As of now, tickets are available according to the website: <https://www.theatreguildsimsbury.org/tickets> . Tickets already purchased by Sue are in Row H, 101-104. **The first three people** to contact Sue at 860-678-0713, may purchase a ticket from her. Others may purchase tickets at the link about. On a side note - Jennifer Valentine, a former Avon Nursery School teacher is performing in the show!

Happenings around Avon

NAMI Farmington Valley Presents: *1 Degree of Separation* - A live comedy show about depression & destigmatizing mental illness, Friday, October 25, 2024, 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm at Avon High School Auditorium, 510 West Avon Rd: This life-changing & life-saving event is free, suggested for ages 12+. Doors open at 6:30pm. Stay after the show for a Meet & Greet with the comedians! For details & to register, please visit <https://www.namifarmingtonvalley.org/2024/08/oct2024/>

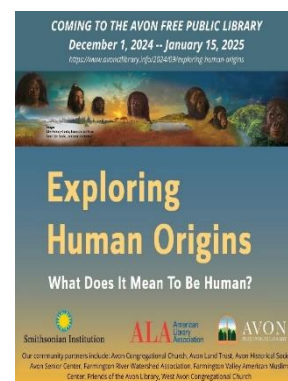
Building FaithNets with NAMI - NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) invites you to help build a FaithNet that encompasses the Greater Hartford area's communities of faith. FaithNets began in 1993 with Gunnar and Susan Christiansen from California, who had a son diagnosed with schizophrenia. Over the years, they became fierce mental health advocates to improve the world for those suffering from mental illness. Today, the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) supports communities to build FaithNets, which act as an interfaith resource network supported by people of all faith traditions.

The goal is to build a collaborative of diverse faith organizations to bring awareness and advocacy to the alarming rise of psychiatric disorders, particularly among Connecticut's youth population. By connecting youth, families, and the community to resources, guidance, and a safe space to explore, learn about, and discuss mental health concerns, we can make a difference.

If you or your church would like to join in future efforts to address this troubling trend, please reach out to our Mental Health Hub interim coordinator, **Diane Smith**, at mhoutreach@westpresby.org or to **Jennifer deSimas**, Library Director of the **John P. Webster Library**, at jpwebsterdir@whfirstchurch.org. Participation is crucial in raising awareness and preventing suicide.

Exhibit at The Avon Library – The library will be hosting an ALA Traveling Exhibit in the community room on the first floor, from December 1, 2024-Jan. 15, 2025, on the origins of humanity. There will be programming on science, history, and faith, exploring all of the themes of the exhibit.

Our partners for this project include: Avon Congregational Church, Avon Land Trust, Avon Historical Society, Avon Senior Center, Farmington River Watershed Association, Farmington Valley American Muslim Center, Friends of the Avon Library, West Avon Congregational Church.



The Avon Library's Art Gallery will feature a companion exhibit from December 1, 2024-January 31, 2025. <https://www.avonctlibrary.info/2024/09/exploring-human-origins/>

The art of storytelling, blossoming across the country in cafés, galleries, and conference rooms, and popularized by such radio programs as The Moth Radio Hour, is coming to Avon!



presents

It's Only a Job!

Join us for a night of true, intriguing, and hilarious stories from our exclusive group of storytellers—from a wardrobe malfunction at an important meeting, to a job interview that sparked a heated plan, from an exciting public relations idea that almost fell off the rails, to the colorful office characters who were just too much to handle.

When: Monday, October 28, 2024, 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.

Where: Avon Congregational Church, 6 West Main, Avon.

Admission: Register to attend at AvonPlayhouse44@gmail.com

Seating is limited, so please register early for this free event.



Donations are accepted, which will assist Playhouse 44 with future productions. They can be made online at <https://playhouse44.org/> or during the event.

Extending a helping hand: We're collecting toiletries and nonperishable food on the night of the event to deliver to local Avon organizations that help individuals and families in need.

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

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
Rev. Jennifer McCleery, Associate Pastor	pastorj@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
Kathy Smith, Office Manager	secretary@avon-church.org
John Carlson, Finance Administrator	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

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 Ferrari and
Betsy Van Loon; Members – at - Large – Sally Albrecht and Don DelCegno