

# E-Tidings

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

**November 13, 2024**

## **Avon's Christmas Banquet - A Hearty Dinner & Entertainment**

**December 6 at 6:00 PM at Avon Congregational Church**

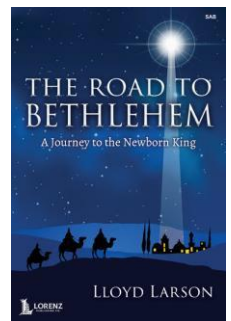
**\$40.00 per person**

**Make your reservation today!**



Dine on traditional holiday fare by candlelight at Avon's historic meetinghouse hall while enjoying festive singers, piano and violin. This feast includes Butternut Squash Soup, Glazed Roast Pork, Stuffing with Cranberries, Herbed Vegetables, Gravy, a Delicious Dessert accompanied by a complimentary glass of wine or sparkling cider. Bring your family, friends and neighbors. Call for a reservation at 860-678-0488.

**Interested in singing with our choir this Christmas season?** On December 22<sup>nd</sup> our Gallery Singers will present "The Road to Bethlehem", a cantata written by Lloyd Larson. It portrays the journey leading to Jesus' birth. If you would like to come to rehearsals and practice with the choir, contact Music Director, Karen Levan, at [music@avon-church.org](mailto:music@avon-church.org). This is the perfect opportunity for those who love to sing to be part of choir for a limited time. Join Us!



**Stewardship News** – Thanksgiving season is right around the corner; 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. Mark your calendars, November 24 is Pledge Sunday (pledges received and blessed)



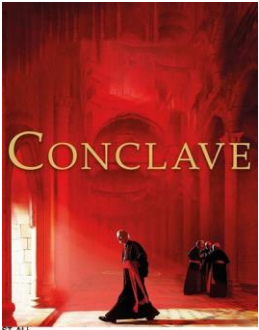
**Coffee with the Pastor, Wednesdays at 10:00 AM** at the Coffee Trade (21 West Main St.) Come by for conversation and fellowship. Pop in or stay for the hour. If you haven't tried it, check it out – we have lots of fun! See you there!





**Bible Study Opportunity on Thursday, Nov. 14, 10:30 AM in the church library.** Join Pastor Jennifer on Thursday morning for a fascinating study on the Gospel of John. All welcome!

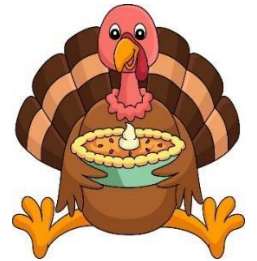
**November Stone Soup** - Please join us in the church kitchen on **Monday, Nov. 18th from 4 pm-6 pm (note the time change this month)** to make a chicken casserole for the clients of Loaves & Fishes soup kitchen in Hartford. We welcome many helping hands. Please contact Beth Ferrari or Kathy Hine if interested.



**Fellowship Opportunity** – All are invited to join with church friends at a showing of the movie **“Conclave” on Tuesday, November 19 @ 1:45** at the Plainville cinemas. The movie is about what happens after the current pope dies. The College of Cardinals gathers in seclusion for a papal conclave to choose a new pope, under the leadership of Cardinal-Dean Thomas Lawrence. Tickets should be a little more than \$9 at this show. Contact Sue Crowther if interested.

**Collecting for Thanksgiving Baskets, items due Sunday, November 24th-**

All are invited to donate a food item for a Thanksgiving meal for three Avon families. **Sign up during coffee hour in Fellowship Hall on November 10th and 17th to bring specific food items for the baskets.** Items need to be returned on Sunday, Nov. 24th. On that day we will gather the food and fill three Thanksgiving baskets. Those who sign up to bring a non-perishable item should bring it to Fellowship Hall. Perishable items should be placed in the refrigerator or freezer. Please clearly label each item “For Thanksgiving Baskets”. Thank you for your support!



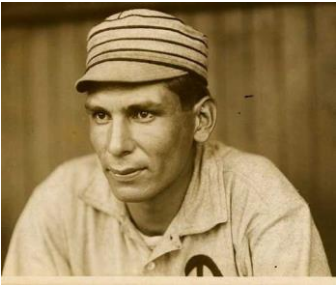
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## November is Indigenous People’s Month

By Betsy Van Loon

When you live with an avid baseball fan, as I do, November is the month after the end of the World Series and the beginning of the countdown to Opening Day next spring.

During the 1911 World Series, the Philadelphia Athletics versus the New York Giants, baseball and Native American history joined together. Let me share this story.



The pitcher for the Philadelphia Athletics was Charles Albert Bender. He was born on the White Earth Reservation in northwestern Minnesota. His mother was of the Ojibwe people and his father a German American. At age seven, Charles was taken to the Indian Boarding School in Carlisle, Pennsylvania. At the boarding school, Charles could not speak his native language, practice his indigenous spirituality or wear any sort of traditional clothing. His escape from the cruelty of life at the boarding school was to learn to play baseball by watching the older boys.

He even learned to make his own bats and balls. Charles' talent as a player was recognized by his coach, Pop Warner. He signed with the Philadelphia Athletics in 1902. In his rookie season, at age 19, Charles won 17 games and pitched over 200 innings.

The catcher for the New York Giants in 1911 was John Tortes Meyer. He learned to play baseball on his Cahuilla tribal reservation in Southern California. Like Charles, John's father was German American and his mother was indigenous and a skilled basket maker in the tradition of the Cahuilla tribe. Despite all the pressure at this time to adopt white people's norms, John spoke the Cahuilla language and stayed close to his family and culture on the reservation. John went to work for the Santa Fe railroad and played for the company's baseball team. He spent one season at Dartmouth College until the school found out John did not have a highschool diploma! From there he moved to four different minor league teams and then to the New York Giants. He was the starting catcher at age 31 and described as a "vicious hitter".



Despite their talents, both players faced racist insults every day from white managers, players, umpires, sportswriters and fans. When the players faced off in the 1911 series, the New York Times printed: "Maybe they wished they had tomahawks in their hands instead of a bat and baseball." The Athletics won the series led by pitcher Charles Bender. After 1911, Charles and John kept playing and they reached the World Series a combined nine times. Despite all these achievements, racist name-calling and cartoons depictions followed both players. Charles and John continued to meet this challenge with dignity and self-respect.

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## **Community Event - Music for Humanity Concert: Considering Matthew Shepard** **Saturday, November 16, 7:30pm-9:00 (no intermission)**

Tickets are \$20 for adults, free for ages 18 and under and students with ID.

This Music for Humanity Concert features the AHCC Sanctuary Choir under the direction of Jack Pott. The oratorio, written in 2016, weaves together a vast range of musical styles to reflect the universality of this story. *Considering Matthew Shepard* is

a Grammy-nominated three-part oratorio that is an evocative and compassionate musical response to the murder of Matthew Shepard.

On October 6, 1998, University of Wyoming student Matthew Shepard was kidnapped, beaten, and left to die, in what became an infamous act of brutality, and one of America's most notorious anti-gay hate crimes. Shepard's murder ultimately led to the creation of the Matthew Shepard Foundation and provided a catalyst for legislation that expanded the definition of a hate crime to include sexual orientation. Composer Craig Hella Johnson had a profoundly personal reaction to both the murder and its resonance. The Shepard family and Foundation engaged with Johnson in the creation of the work, and allowed the use of fragments from Shepard's personal diary.

[Music for Humanity Concerts](#) join the music and outreach ministries of Asylum Hill Congregational Church. All proceeds from ticket sales for this concert will be donated to [Qplus](#) dedicated to uplifting and empowering Queer youth.



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Christmas Banquet  
A Hearty Dinner & Entertainment*

*\$40.00 per person*

*December 6, 6:00 pm*

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Reservations required at 860-678-0488.

*Avon Congregational Church*

*6 West Main St., Avon, CT 06001*

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



# *A Service of Gratitude and Thanksgiving*

*with local faith leaders of many traditions*

## *Tuesday, November 26<sup>nd</sup>*

*St Ann Catholic Church 289 Arch Road Avon, CT.*



*6 PM – Delicious Soups & Breads*

*7 PM – Interfaith Service with  
Area Congregations*

*Sign-up to bring your favorite soup & bread!*

*Contact the office at [kris.martino@stannavon.com](mailto:kris.martino@stannavon.com)*

**COMING TO THE AVON FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY**

**December 1, 2024 -- January 15, 2025**

<https://www.avonctlibrary.info/2024/09/exploring-human-origins>



Images

John Anthony Gurche, Reconstructed Faces  
Karen Carr Studio, Landscape Illustrations

# Exploring Human Origins

## What Does It Mean To Be Human?



Smithsonian Institution



AVON  
FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Our community partners 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

## **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

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

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