



E-Tidings

Avon Congregational Church
avon-church.org

November 20, 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.

Bible Study continues on Thursday, Nov. 21, 10:30 AM in the church library. Join Pastor Jennifer on Thursday morning for this final study in our series on the Gospel of John. We will wrap up our study, and have time for some discussion and practice of gratitude. All welcome!



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, this Sunday, November 24 is Pledge Sunday (pledges received and blessed).**

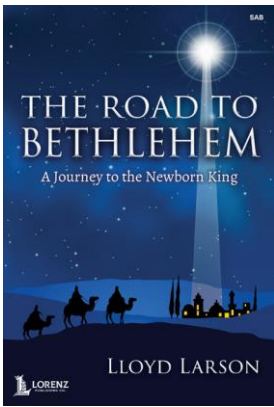
Thanksgiving Basket items are due this Sunday, November 24th. If you signed up to donate a food item, please bring it in by the 24th. Clearly label each item "For Thanksgiving Baskets". On that day we will gather the food and fill three Thanksgiving baskets. Thank you for your support!





Worship and Hospitality Volunteers for Sunday, November 24th: Trustee – Rich Carpentier, Reader – Leslie Desmangles, Usher – Laurie Petrin, Videographer – Patti Nevin, Prayer Partner – Kate Allen, Host & Hospitality – Laurie McBride and Betsy Van Loon

The Season of Gratitude and Giving – There's a special Christmas Tree in Fellowship Hall with tags on it – come and see! We are all invited to take a tag home and purchase the item on it for Gifts of Love in Avon, for their annual Holiday Shop. Please return your UNWRAPPED gift to the church, along with its tag, **by December 4th**. Gifts will be transported to Gifts of Love on your behalf.



Interested in singing with our choir this Christmas season? On December 22nd 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. This is the perfect opportunity for those who love to sing to be part of choir for a limited time.

Can you unscramble these Thanksgiving Words? Give it a try!

THANKSGIVING WORD SCRAMBLE

1. pearad _____
2. erwolyfMa _____
3. ornc _____
4. nebairresrc _____
5. rovbNeme _____
6. gmsirpli _____
7. lbfaloto _____
8. opeostat _____
9. tknafulh _____
10. yrkteu _____
11. liyamf _____
12. tsufnifg _____
13. eafts _____
14. inrden _____
15. nieipmkupp _____



Order your Christmas Poinsettias today!

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS FORM

Christmas Poinsettias add sacred beauty and help make more meaningful our late Advent and Christmastide celebration. Would you like to provide one (or more) to grace our sanctuary? It is a wonderful way to remember or honor a loved one. Please fill out the order form and return with your money no later **than Monday, December 2nd**.

Each plant costs \$12.00. Include check or cash for the full amount with the order form. Make checks payable to Avon Congregational Church and return to the church office.

_____ CUT HERE _____

Color and Number of plants: Red _____ White _____

The flowers you are ordering on this form may be taken home by donors following Christmas Eve service.

Amount enclosed: \$ _____



Given by:

Message for bulletin:

In honor of/In memory of/In celebration of...
(circle one or create own)





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!

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 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 high school 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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Reservations required at 860-678-0488.

Avon Congregational Church

6 West Main St., Avon, CT 06001

www.avon-church.org



A Service of Gratitude and Thanksgiving

with local faith leaders of many traditions

Tuesday, November 26nd

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

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

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

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| 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