



E-Tidings

Avon Congregational Church
avon-church.org

December 18, 2024

ADVENT HAPPENINGS AT AVON CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH!!





Worship and Hospitality Volunteers for Sunday, December 22nd

Trustee – Jim Reed, Reader – Ray Ramezzana, Usher – Bruce Elliott, Videographer – Donna Lynn Young, Prayer Partner – Gail Alvord, Host & Hospitality – Hospitality & Cookie Bakers - Carol, Jill, and Shawn Burnham, Lynn DelCegno, Beth Ferrari, Peruse Khachoyen, Karen Rowntree, Brenda Transue

Worship and Hospitality Volunteers for Sunday, December 29th: Trustee – Rich Carpentier, Reader – Jim Reed, Usher – Ray Ramezzana, Videographer – Patti Nevin, Prayer Partner – Kate Allen, Host & Hospitality – Charlie Zaorski and Beth Ferrari



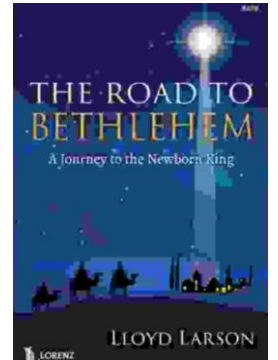
Worship Volunteers Wanted – Your Worship Ministry is looking for readers and ushers to assist with Sunday services. Interested? Please e-mail: Sue Crowther @ sdcrowther@aol.com or Laurie Petrin @ ljpkra@gmail.com.

Readers wanted for the Christmas Eve Service of Lessons and Carols on December 24th at 7:30 PM – If this is a meaningful service to you and you're interested in being a reader, please contact Pastor Chris at 860-678-0488 or pastor@avon-church.org.



Thursday, December 19, 7:00 PM: Darkest Night Service of Healing - Dealing with the death of a loved one, facing life after divorce or separation, coping with job loss, health challenges or simply feeling overwhelmed by the stress and pressures of the season, grief comes in many forms and might lay an emotional pall over the holidays. That's why we're holding a service of reflection and healing on the longest night.

Christmas Cantata Sunday, December 22, 10:00 AM: We near the birth of Jesus with an Advent focus of Love being born into our lives. Please join us for a very special worship, including an expanded choir, who will together with our ministers, present "The Road to Bethlehem."



Tuesday, December 24, 7:30 PM: Christmas Eve Service of Lessons and Carols - Join us for a joy-filled family Christmas Eve service. The choir and musicians will enhance the Christmas Story with traditional music. The service will close with the congregation lighting their candles while singing Silent Night.

This Year's Christmas Offering - It has been our tradition every Christmas to take a special offering to be sent forth to aid people beyond our walls. Each year we select a different organization because there is so much need in so many places and because we want to spread our love around. This year we have selected **My Sister's Place**, a non-profit organization committed to ending homelessness by empowering women, families, and others in Greater Hartford to achieve independence and stability in their community by providing housing and supportive services. Through our gifts, we together represent Avon Congregational Church, along with many other churches, businesses and groups, seeking to care for our neighbors. Your offerings may be placed in the special envelopes found in the pews. Please give generously, now in particular, in the Spirit of the season.



**My
Sister's
Place**



Year End Giving - Have you considered appreciated securities to support your annual pledge? Your gift of appreciated property – stocks, bonds or mutual funds – will benefit both you and Avon Congregational Church. If you have owned them for longer than a year, you can deduct their appreciated value as a charitable tax deduction, and you won't have to pay capital gains tax on the appreciation. If you are 70 ½ or older, you can make a tax-advantaged gift directly from your IRA to Avon Congregational Church. Your gift to the church is not included in your taxable income, but it does count toward your Required Minimum Distribution. Before you take any action regarding your IRA or other investments, it is always a good idea to talk to your tax advisor. Please contact John Carlson at administrator@avon-church.org for information on how to make a transfer.

Offering Envelopes Ready for Pickup - Offering Envelopes for those individuals requesting envelopes are available for pickup from the office. If you would like to request a box of offering envelopes, please contact John Carlson in the church office. Thank you for sharing in the vital ministries of Avon Congregational Church.



Thank you to Phil Ferrari and Dick Lytle for helping with small repairs to our building! We appreciate all that our parishioners do for the church.



Thank you, Pastor Chris, Pastor Jennifer, Kathy and John, for your lovely welcome to Sam Howard and Nadine! They thoroughly enjoyed visiting, and seeing ACC! Sam, Nora and Roger Howard's son, is the brewer at Kloster Ettal in Germany, and Nadine works in Munich and is visiting the USA for the first time.

Celebrating Rev. Jennifer McCleery's Ministry at ACC – Show your appreciation!



Dear Friends, It is coming close to the time when we say goodbye to Rev. Jennifer McCleery. We will be honoring her on **Sunday, December 22nd** following our church service. There will be a special Fellowship Hour, where we will present her with a framed print of a watercolor of our church made by a local artist.

We are asking everyone to write a card or note to Rev. Jennifer, letting her know how much we appreciated her. They may be dropped off in the church office, M – Th, 9 AM – 2:30 PM, or on Sunday.

In keeping with Rev. Jennifer's spirit, we also want to make two special donations in her honor. We will be collecting monetary offerings for two charities – Loaves and Fishes, which is supported by our Stone Soup Ministry, and Hands on Hartford. Our church has supported these two charities for many years. **You can drop off your donation, letting us know which charity you chose.** Please make your donation payable to Avon Congregational Church and bring it to the church office during office hours.

It has been our honor and privilege to have Rev. Jennifer as part of our church family. We wish her all the best in her undoubtedly wonderful career.

Blessings,
The Steering Circle

Coffee with the Pastor starts up again on January 8th 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!



Christmas Market - Be sure to browse and shop Avon Congregational Church's Christmas Market, which is open now. A selection of Christmas and Holiday décor, decorations, dishware and linens will be complimented by a smattering of unique and beautiful gift ideas for all you love! Located in Fellowship Hall, the market will be open during office hours of the church and following worship services on each Sunday in Advent. Cash or checks payable to Avon Congregational Church.



Our Outreach Ministry spread some joy by presenting class sets of Merlin's Missions books to the very happy third grade teachers at Gaffney Elementary School in New Britain. Each student will receive a new book to take home for the holidays. The Outreach Ministry has been sponsoring reading tutors at Gaffney School for 12 years. If interested, please contact Beth Ferrari.

CHORUS ANGELICUS & GAUDEAMUS PRESENT

CHRISTMAS ANGELICUS

A NEW ENGLAND TRADITION



12.14 - TORRINGTON - 4:00 PM

12.20 - AVON - 7:00 PM

12.21 - SALISBURY - 4:00 PM

12.22 - WEST HARTFORD - 4:00 PM

ANDREW THOMSON, PERCUSSIONIST

JOHN DANKOSKY, NARRATOR

EZEQUIEL MENÉNDEZ, ORGANIST

GABRIEL IÖFVALL, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR



CHORUS ANGELICUS

BUY TICKETS AT WWW.CHORUSANGELICUS.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

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