

# E-Tidings

**Avon E-Tidings**

**Avon Congregational Church**



**February 25, 2026**

## **A Message from the Pastor**

"When snow falls, nature listens." — *Antoinette Van Kleeff*

At first glance (and in light of what feels for many the onslaught of yet ANOTHER snow event), one might see a bleak landscape with barren trees, a dim distant sun and no sign of life.

And yet, just as God works using the often-mysterious unknown to speak to us in the still silence, all of creation is just the same. And why not, for aren't we nature and isn't nature us?

If we bend our ear and listen with what Jesus asks of his followers, using the ears of one's ears, we would hear something different than what we see.

For in fact, the snow is both protection to the flora and fauna and also a steady source of nutrition through the slow cycle of melt and freeze. The trees are not barren, but transforming with new buds forming and the veins within the bark reacting to the thaw and freeze to bring life to what will soon burst into bloom. The sun, even though looking distant is actually offering a slow, but steady strengthening; it's warmth, it's life-giving rays, it's control of day and night. It does so imperceptible, even as we are hurling in space closer toward it and rotating our hemisphere's axis toward a new season.

Charles Dickens said, "Nature gives to every time and season some beauties of its own." Nature is, of course, God. I pray this Lenten season of self-reflection encourages you to look beyond what you see and ask God to grant you ears for your ears to hear the still, yet soft- speaking God as the snow still yet falls.

Blessings through and beyond...  
Pastor Chris

**Worship and Hospitality Volunteers for Communion Sunday, March 1:** Communion Elements - Sue Crowther, Reader – Jennie Boswell, Usher – Dave Crowther, Trustee – Laurie Petrin, Videographer – Kate Allen, Coffee Hour Host - Angela Scott and Carly Henderson

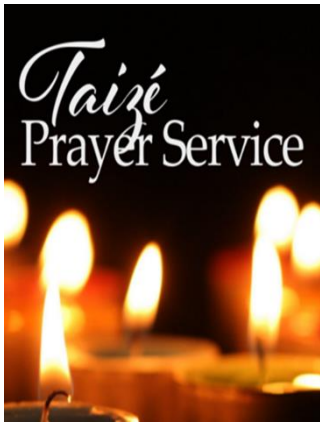


**Coffee with the Pastor** - Join us for conversation and fellowship at 10:00 am each Wednesday at the Coffee Trade (21 West Main St.). Pop in or stay for the hour. See you there!

### **February 28th, 6:00 pm Heritage Potluck in Fellowship Hall**



Do you have a favorite dish that has been made by a family member for years and reflects your ethnic heritage? Due to snowy conditions, the Heritage Potluck has been **rescheduled** for this Saturday, February 28<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. We will have an opportunity to share the foods of our individual cultures and get to know more about our church family. Please join us and bring your 'heritage' dish to share, along with the recipe (if you're willing) and even perhaps share a favorite family story to go along with your dish! Sign up on the Bulletin Board in the Main Hall



## March 3rd, 7 pm. Taizé Prayer, An Experience of Contemplation and Song

Take a respite from the hectic pace of life and nurture your spiritual practice. Come into the silence, a sacred place of solace and healing lit by candlelight. Hear the still small voice of God in a time of meditative silence and through petitions of prayer and song. Be filled with Spirit this Lent and beyond.

## March 2nd , 9th & 23rd at 6:30 pm AND & 5th , 12, & 26th at 10:30 am A Three Week Bible Study

Genesis, the 'In the beginning' book we all THINK we know. However, did you know there are two different creation stories, two different Noah and his Flood stories, and two stories of God's promise to Abraham? Why is this? And why do other, even more ancient Sumerian and Mesopotamian sacred writings, play into these texts?? The purpose of this study is to discover both what the meaning of these various passages meant for the ancient community seeking God and also to understand what lessons can be drawn for our own Christian faith today.



## First Friday Dinner at Avon Congregational Church, Dine In AND Take Out!! 6 West Main St., on March 6 at 5:30 – 7:00 PM.



We know life is busy, but to live well, we must eat well! Come meet new friends from all over the Farmington Valley for a family favorite, Lasagna with traditional meat or vegetarian version. This month's hearty entrée is served with a salad, crunchy bread and our wonderful dessert buffet! Includes coffee and tea as well, to complete your dining experience. **\$20 each.** No reservations necessary. Too busy to eat in or looking for a great option to feed your friends and family at home?? Take-out is available. No fuss! For more information, call the church office at 860-678-0488 or email us at [secretary@avon-church.org](mailto:secretary@avon-church.org).



**Dinner Volunteer Sign-Ups** are on the main hall bulletin board by the office. We are looking for helpers who can assist with take-out, cook, serve the meal, clean up during and afterwards, and make a dessert. We are very thankful for all of our volunteers and look forward to another year of delicious dinners!

**Community News** - Stay warm this winter. A reminder that the State of Connecticut offers the CT Energy Assistance Program to help households cover the cost of primary heating bills, including oil, propane, electric, and gas. Please visit the website at [www.avonct.org/energyassistance](http://www.avonct.org/energyassistance), or call (860) 409-4346. Deadline is May 29, 2026.

**Wanted Your 14k gold and sterling silver** - Precious metals are being collected at Hidden Treasures for the church. broken chains, single earrings, dented silver - WE WANT IT! Thank you in advance for your donations.

### **Silver Lake Summer Camp for Youth Registering NOW**

Did you know that the United Church of Christ has a beautiful summer camp with more than 60 acres of wooded land on lakeside shores in the western hills of Connecticut? Go to [www.SilverLakeCT.org](http://www.SilverLakeCT.org) to check out all the options for youth in grades 4-12 (a poster is on our bulletin boards too). Silver Lake is a place for everyone to experience nature, make new friends, and explore faith. Church members are offered scholarships for their children. See Pastor Chris for more details on this.



### **An Intergenerational Mission Trip Opportunity for August**

This is a meaningful multi-generational opportunity open to individuals and families (ages 13 and up). Last summer, 33 people from our Association went on a very meaningful mission trip to Farmington, Maine to work with <https://missionattheeastward.org/> (MATE). They stayed at the Farmington Conference Center ([Farmington Conference Center](#)). The cost last year was appx \$300. This year it will most likely be less AND our church has scholarships to help defray costs.



We are happy to announce that we are returning for another mission trip to the same location this coming summer. August 1-6, 2026. Spread the word for people who may be interested in joining us. We are having two informational meetings (with free dinner!) on March 15 and April 19, 4 pm in Palmer Hall at First Church Simsbury located at 689 Hopmeadow Street, Simsbury.

Here are the current members of the Committee on Ministry:

Chair: John Carlson (Lay member, West Avon) Register: Zack Mabe (Pastor, Terryville): **Treasurer: Chris Solimene (Pastor, Avon)**: Scheduler: Sarah Pradhan (Lay member and Faith Formation Director, Granby): Secretary: Susan Keenan (Lay member, Unionville).

Do you have interest and can attend one of the informational meetings? I'd love to have some representation from Avon Congregational Church. Have questions? Contact Pastor Chris at [pastor@avon-church.org](mailto:pastor@avon-church.org).

### **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**

## **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
Karen Levan, Dir. of Music Ministries/Organist	music@avon-church.org
Jolene Tefoe, Dir. of Avon Nursery School	ans@avon-church.org
Office Manager, Diane Parker	secretary@avon-urch.org
John Carlson, Finance Administrator	administrator@avon-church.org
Lenny Lebatique, 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

## **Steering Circle 2025 – 2026**

Moderator – Jerry Humble; Treasurer – Bob Linderman; Clerk – Candace Doersch;  
Worship – Alex Harris and Kent May; Nurturing – Lee Egan and Joan Miller;  
Outreach – Marcia Cox and Leslie Desmangles; Support – Beth Ferrari and Betsy Van Loon; Members – at - Large – Kate Allen and Kate Rickson - McNally



# **Heritage Potluck**

**Monday, February 28th**

**at 6:00 pm in Fellowship Hall**

**Do you have a favorite dish that has been made by a family member for years and reflects your ethnic heritage? On Monday, Feb. 28 at 6:00 pm, we will have an opportunity to share the foods of our individual cultures and get to know more about our church family.**

**Please join us and bring your 'heritage' dish to share, along with the recipe (if you're willing) and even perhaps share a favorite family story to go along with your dish!**

**Sign up on the Bulletin Board in the Main Hall**

# First Friday Dinner

at Avon Congregational Church

6 West Main St., Avon, CT

**Friday, March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2026**

**5:30 – 7:00 PM**

featuring

## Meat or Vegetarian Lasagna

*with Salad topped by House Dressing,  
Crunchy Bread and our Dessert Bar!*



**\$20/meal No reservations necessary**

*All proceeds benefit church and local ministries.*

**Take-Out Available Walk-Ins Welcome**



# Summer Camp 2026

Week #

Grades 4-6


Grades 7-9

Grades 10-12

**1**  
JUNE  
21-27  



**PRAISE & PLAY ALL DAY**  
Deans: Stacy Stevens, Debi Mastroni-Kenyon  
**BRING ON THE MONSTERS**  
Deans: Brittany Romaniello, Rebekah Lyon  
**ARTS ALIVE**  
Deans: Emily McKenna, Tiffany Nakanishi  
**BABY CAMP** Ages 0-3 & Adult | Wednesday-Saturday  
Deans: Chelsea Kordiak, Mike Kordiak, Anne Hughes



**2**  
JUNE 28-  
JULY 4  


**FAMILY CAMP 1** All Ages | Sunday-Wednesday  
Deans: Sarah Rodriguez, Chris Miller  
**CIRCLE OF FRIENDS**  
Deans: Camryn Cicarelli, Aron Gillette  
**TBA** Program Details to be Announced Soon!  
**ADVENTURE CAMP!** Dean: Andrew Wicks



**3**  
JULY  
5-11  


**FAMILY CAMP 2** All Ages | Sunday-Wednesday  
Deans: Evelyn Cass Adams, Kelsey DeCarlo  
**WATER WORLD**  
Deans: Betty Geiling, Josh Geiling, Maureen Montrase  
**SING PRAISE**  
Deans: Valerie Tutson, Leanna Bonafini, Whendi Cook Broderick



**4**  
JULY  
12-18  


**MUGGLES & WIZARDS** Dean: Jennifer Long  
**FUN IN THE SON**  
Deans: Brian Lapis, Cameron Hull, Caitlin Mundy



**5**  
JULY  
19-25  


**GOD SONG**  
Deans: Victoria Bower, Brianna Gambacini  
**ALL ABOARD!**  
Deans: Brittany Anderson, Kaleb Oakleaf  
**SUMMERTIME S.T.E.A.M.**  
Deans: Vin Urbanowski, Donna Kaiser



Tiered Pricing: \$940 | \$850 | \$760  
*Financial Assistance is available.*

SCAN FOR MORE INFO



[www.SilverLakeCT.org](http://www.SilverLakeCT.org)