

Avon Congregational Church

Avon, Connecticut

United Church of Christ

Sunday, June 23, 2019



SUPPORT *Grow* Create

Share Experience Sustain

Discover ENJOY **Learn** REACH

Awaken Build Envision

Imagine **Foster** Cherish

Become

The mission of the Avon Congregational Church is to enable people to know God's unconditional love and to be a community of faith helping one another to live as Jesus Christ loved and taught.

Order of Worship

GATHERED TO WORSHIP

RINGING THE WORSHIP BELL

Hear God's still voice in the sacred quiet of this Sanctuary.

WORDS OF MEDITATION

"It took me four years to paint like Raphael, but a lifetime to paint like a child."
– Pablo Picasso

PRELUDE.....*Children's Song Medley* M. Hayes

Bringing in the Light of Christ

WORDS OF WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Chris Solimene

Brief announcements from the congregation are welcome.
Name tags are located in the vestibule. Name tag stickers are located in the pew racks. Please help visitors get to know you by wearing your name tag.
We welcome children in worship. Special activity bulletins are available. Our Nursery is open Sunday mornings until after worship for parents and their children.
A speaker allows you to hear the service while your children relax and play.
Large print bulletins, hymnals, and hearing amplifiers are available from an usher.
If you're visiting today, we're delighted you're here! We invite you to help us know you better by filling out a pew card and dropping it in the offering plate. Join us for fellowship at coffee hour, following the service.

CENTERING OUR MINDS AND HEARTS ON WORSHIP

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Sabrina Nordlund

One: We ask God's blessing on this Children's Day worship and on all gathered here.

Many: We celebrate all children everywhere!

One: We celebrate the children who bring us joy and make us laugh.

Many: We celebrate the children who ask hard questions and challenge us.

One: We celebrate children with electric energy and quiet smiles.

Many: We celebrate children who dance and play and run.

One: We celebrate children who can't dance, can't play and can't run.

Many: We celebrate the children who have many friends and those who are searching to make just one.

One: We thank God for all the children, here and in lands far away.

All: Praise God who calls us all as God's beloved children.

*HYMN.....Kum Ba Yah (Vs. 1,2,3,5).....Red Hymnal #494

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION

*GLORIA PATRI

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

MESSAGE FOR ALL AGES

**Refrain: It makes no difference what your age or color.
It makes no difference how you spell your name.
For God wants us to help out one another.
God loves us all and calls us just the same.**

**Final Verse for All: There's a life that's right for you; will you live it?
There's a friend who needs your help; will you give it?
Through God's love you will succeed. You can help the ones in need.
You can catch them when they fall. God calls us all.
Are you ready for the call? God loves us all.**

"God Calls Us All" words and music by Mark Burrows
Solos by Gabbi Carpentier and Jenna Matos
UNICEF Message by Isaac Nordland

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM FOR KAIDEN RICHARD TIERNEY (see insert)

*SHARING OF CHRIST'S PEACE

LISTENING FOR THE WORD OF GOD

INTRODUCTION TO SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURE READING Genesis 1:26-27 (OT Pg. 2), Mark 12:29-30 (NT Pg. 49)
Jenna Matos & Jennifer Nordland

SERMON "Sensing Our Way to God" Pastor Chris Solimene

RESPONSE OF THE PEOPLE

INVITATION TO SHARE

OFFERTORY.....Alabare.....J.Pagan
Sung by Gallery Singers
Accompanied by children and youth playing percussion instruments

*DOXOLOGY

Tune: Old Hundredth

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above ye heavenly host,
Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

*UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Giver of all good things, we release our gifts into the abundant river of Your love. May the works of our faith and shared ministry here flow out to the world, unifying our call to, like Jesus, heal and serve others. Amen

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**“Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever.”
Amen.**

GOD SENDS US TO SERVE

Carrying out the Light of Christ

*HYMN.....*Pass It On*.....Red Hymnal #572

*BENEDICTION

*There's a voice inside this place. Can you hear it?
And the voice is calling you – never fear it.
We are sent out with God's peace. We all leave here with God's love.
Oh, just look what we've become – love for us all.
Yes, we're ready for the call. God calls us all...*

POSTLUDE.....*This Little Light of Mine*.....M. Hayes

*Please join us for a special Make Your Own Sundae Children Sunday celebration,
immediately following Worship, in Fellowship Hall*

**Please rise in body or in spirit as able*

All are Welcome

As an open and affirming church, we welcome with pleasure all
who have come to worship with us today.

Today's Worship Team: Worship Leader – Bob DiRusso, Ushers – Gail Alvord and Sally Albrecht, Trustee – Beth Ferrari

Prayers are requested for: Ann; Hugh Jones; Jonathan Ness; Ben Shea; Herbert Christian Mueller; Evy; Diana Alberts Parks; Nancy Nation; Dawn; Amy; Maureen; Kim; Julian; Sathiyaraj

Calendar

Today 6/23	10:00 AM	Sunday Worship - Sanctuary
Today 6/23	11:00 AM	Children's Sunday Sundaes
Monday 6/24	11:00 AM	Monday Morning Bee - Hall
Monday 6/24	5:30 PM	Guiding Eyes - Hall
Tuesday 6/25	9:30 AM	ACC Staff Retreat - Parsonage
Wednesday 6/26	10:00 AM	Coffee with the Pastor – Coffee Trade
Wednesday 6/26	10:00 AM	E-Tidings and Bulletin Deadline
Thursday 6/27	9:30 AM	Sew Thankful Quilters & Crafters
Thursday 6/27	6:30 PM	Farmington Valley Insight Meditation – Room 5
Sunday 6/30	10:00 AM	Sunday Worship - Sanctuary

Birthdays this week: Bob DiRusso

Announcements

Coffee with the Pastor – Pastor Chris will be at the Coffee Trade (21 West Main Street) from 10-11 am on Wednesdays in July - conversation, fellowship, come any time!

Building Restoration - The Building Restoration work will be starting on July 5th – it's an exciting time at the church in anticipation of our 200th anniversary. If you would like to contribute to this designated fund with a stock gift, please contact the church treasurer, Beth Ferrari, for instructions on how to proceed. Checks are also accepted and may be made payable to ACC with a special notation "200th Restoration Fund" in the memo section of your check. Thank you!

Pastor Chris and Kent host Open House at the Farm: June 29th 12-3pm: You may have heard about "Gus" the goose and the Banty hens. You may have heard a tale or two about the ole 1755 cape that Pastor Chris and Kent call home in Killingworth. You are now invited to trek down Route 9 the 45 minutes to stroll the gardens and poke around the historic house. Cold drinks and light refreshments will be served for this afternoon of fellowship and fun at Parsonage South! 541 Route 81 (Higganum Road) Killingworth, CT.

Hymn Sing Sunday, June 30 – Choose a hymn that touches your soul, and email the title to Pastor Chris at pastor@avon-church.org by June 23rd. It can be any hymn: An ancient one, a modern one, a gospel hymn, a Lenten or Easter or Christmas favorite, a Taize chant – you get the idea - you name it! The diversity of the hymns will make this service very special. Please be prepared to say a few words about why it is special for you or if you prefer, write up a paragraph and Pastor Chris will share it.

Interested in Christian Service & Outreach? The Christian Service and Outreach ministry team will be having a potluck dinner planning meeting **on Monday, June 24th at 6 pm** at the home of Beth Ferrari, 25 Cotswold Way in Avon. We will be discussing new ideas and plans for outreach at ACC for the upcoming year and you are welcome to join us. Please contact Beth at 860 675-8246 or bethferrari@comcast.net if interested in attending.

Worship Support Members Wanted – Are you interested in being a Worship Leader, Usher, Trustee or Lay Reader during our Sunday Services? We are currently looking to expand our list of volunteers, as we work on the 9/2019-8/2020 schedule. Current volunteers should let us know about conflicts in their personal schedules. A list of the duties of each position is available by email. Contact Kathy Smith in the church office at secretary@avonchurch.org or Pastor Chris at pastor@avon-church.org for more information or to be added to our volunteer list.

Exhibit at Avon Library on ACC history, July and August: Help Set Up Monday July 1, from 10 a.m. - Noon. On Monday morning July 1st, Nora Howard will be installing the summer exhibit on Avon Congregational Church in the locked exhibit case at the Avon Free Public Library's History Room (first floor). The exhibit runs during July and August. If you would like to stop by to see the progress, or help unpack and place items that morning, please do! 10 a.m. to noon.

Updated directories are now available in the church office.

If you know of any school aged children in need of breakfast or lunch this summer, texting "FOOD" to 877877 will bring a return message with the closest location offering free summer meals. This service is being provided by the national program, **No Kid Hungry**.

Reminder: Summer Worship Time in July and August is 9:30 a.m.:

Union worship services with the West Avon Congregational Church will be held at West Avon Congregational Church in July with Rev. Chris Solimene leading worship. WACC is located at 280 Country Club Road, Avon, CT. Offerings brought to West Avon Congregational worship services should be placed in your ACC envelopes.

In August, Rev. Brian Hardee will lead worship at Avon Congregational Church.

Summer Office Hours: During the months of July and August the Avon Congregational Church office will be open **Tuesday – Thursday, 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.** The office will be closed Monday and Friday. Please feel free to leave a voice mail message or send an email; we will respond as soon as possible.

Meetinghouse Moment #80

by Nora Howard, Church Historian

Children's Day Exercises invitation (undated) "of the Avon Congregational Sunday School, which will be held on Sunday June 13th at 11:30 o'clock. We are expecting a very enjoyable time and hope you may be present. [Signed] Avon Cong. Church." ACC Archives.



Staff Contact List – Online Church Information

Pastor Chris Solimene	pastor@avon-church.org
Karen Levan, Dir. of Music Ministries/Organist	music@avon-church.org
Joan Parks, Dir. of Avon Nursery School	avonnsdirector@gmail.com
Kathy Smith, Office Manager	secretary@avon-church.org
Beth Ferrari	administrator@avon-church.org
Gene Martin, Sexton	
Church Phone Number	860-678-0488
Church Website	www.avon-church.org
Wi-Fi Access at Church	ACC-Public: Password – avonchurch
CT Digital Archive	www.collections.ctdigitalarchive.org →Avon Free Public Library →Avon Congregational Church

Steering Circle 2018 – 2019

Moderator - Bob Linderman; Clerk - Jennifer Egan; Treasurer - Beth Ferrari;
Worship - Norm Keeney and Peruse Khachoyan; Nurturing - Patti Nevin
and Gail Alvord; Outreach - Sue Crowther and Susan Elliott;
Support - Jennie Boswell and Dick Lytle

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.