

Avon Congregational Church

Avon, Connecticut

United Church of Christ

Sunday, June 2, 2019

Feast of the Ascension and Communion Sunday



Communion 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

"Let's create a place where all can encounter God with the opportunity for transformation and an invitation to find purpose and meaning. Are you ready?"
– Pastor Chris

PRELUDE.....*Andantino*.....*C. Debussy*

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

Jim Reed

One: Today is Ascension Sunday when we celebrate Christ's return to God.

Many: We look up in wonder as he is lifted from us into heaven!

One: But this is not a time to gaze upward. There is work to be done.

Many: Jesus has entrusted the ministry of God's love to us.

One: Let's get to work!

All: Let's make our hearts ready for the task ahead with prayer and praise!

*HYMN*Come, Thou Almighty King*.....*Red Hymnal #61*

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (*Based on John 17: 20-26*)

* SHARING OF CHRIST'S PEACE (*Sung twice*).....*Red Hymnal #328*

Following the Sharing of Peace, children are invited to Church School in Room 6

LISTENING FOR THE WORD OF GOD

INTRIDUCTION TO SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURE READING

Acts 1:1-11 (NT Page 118)

Jim Reed

SERMON

"Mission, Vision and Beyond"

Pastor Chris Solimene

Our Vision: **We strive to be an open, caring, and growing community. As we explore new and proven spiritual pathways, we encourage one another to discover our unique significance in God's world. We worship, work and celebrate together joyfully. Using our gifts to reach out to others, we endeavor to create a world of compassion, peace and justice.**

RESPONSE OF THE PEOPLE

*HYMN.....*Spirit of the Living God*.....*Red Hymnal # 393*

INVITATION TO SHARE

OFFERTORY ANTHEM.....*You Say*.....*L.Daigle, J. Ingram and P. Mabury*
(Carly Henderson, soloist)

*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 DEDICATION

O God, receive these gifts, bless them and multiply them, that they may strengthen and unify the work of Your Church here and around the Earth You love. In Jesus' name we pray. 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**

SHARING IN THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

This church shares God's extravagant love by practicing open Communion. All are welcome to partake. Children may participate as parents/guardians deem appropriate. A gluten free option is available from bowl in center of plates.

INVITATION TO CHRIST'S TABLE

One: Beloved in Christ, the Gospel tells us that on the first day of the week, Jesus Christ was raised and appeared to Mary Magdalene. On that same day he sat at the table with two disciples and was made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

Many: This is the joyful feast of the people of God. Women and men, children and youth, come from the east and the west, from the north and the south, and gather about Christ's table.

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

THE STORY IS REMEMBERED AND THE BREAD AND CUP ARE SHARED

Giving of the Bread

Taken after all have been served, signifying the communion of our church fellowship

Giving of the Cup

Taken individually, signifying each person's personal communion with God

UNISON PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Bountiful God, we give you thanks for nourishing us with our daily bread in Christ's presence. Through your love and by our care, feed the world with this bread. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another and send us forth in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

GOD SENDS US TO SERVE

(Carrying out the Light of Christ)

*CLOSING HYMN.....*Shalom to You Now.....Red Hymnal #666*
Sung twice: Once for our congregation, a second time for all in the world.

**Shalom to you now, shalom my friends
May God's full mercies bless you, my friends
In all your living and through your loving,
Christ be your shalom, Christ be your shalom**

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BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE.....*March in D.....G.F. Handel*

Please join us for Coffee Hour, 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. We invite you to join us for coffee and fellowship after the service to get acquainted with those who are near you.

Today's worship team: *Worship Support and Elements – Sue Crowther, Ushers and Communion – Dave Crowther and Jane Keeney, Lay Reader – Jim Reed, Trustee of the Day – Jennie Boswell*

Prayers are requested for: Marilyn Henry; Ben Shea; Herbert Christian Mueller; Evy; Viviana Reich; Diana Alberts Parks; Sue; Pat Kiser; Barbara Presutti; Nancy Nation; Bruce; Dawn; Amy; Maureen; Kim; Susan; Julian; Sathiyaraj

Calendar

<i>Today 6/2</i>	10:00 AM	Communion Sunday Worship - Sanctuary
<i>Tuesday 6/4</i>	9:15 AM	ACC Staff Meeting - Library
<i>Tuesday 6/4</i>	6:30 PM	Farmington Valley Insight Meditation - Library
<i>Wednesday 6/5</i>	10:00 AM	Coffee With the Pastor – Coffee Trade
<i>Wednesday 6/5</i>	10:00 AM	Eblast and Bulletin Deadline
<i>Wednesday 6/5</i>	6:00 PM	Celebration Ringers – Music Room
<i>Wednesday 6/5</i>	7:00 PM	Gallery Singers – Music Room
<i>Friday 6/7</i>	5:30 PM	First Friday Dinner – Baked Ham
<i>Sunday 6/9</i>	10:00 AM	Sunday Worship – Music Sunday - Sanctuary
<i>Sunday 6/9</i>	11:30 AM	New Member Luncheon

Birthdays this week: Bruce Elliott, Greg Kozikowski

Announcements

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

Invitation for New Members – A New Member Orientation Luncheon will be held on **Sunday, June 9, 2019**, following the worship service. Should God call you to share your gifts in ways that will provide you with deep meaning and lifelong friendships here with us, New Member Sunday and the congregation's recognition of your choice to join our journey of faith will be held **Sunday, June 16, 2019**. Please reach out to Pastor Chris or Gail Alvord if you would like a conversation or have questions regarding your interest in becoming a new member of Avon Congregational Church. Indeed, God has a plan for you!

First Friday Dinner at Avon Congregational Church, June 7, 2019, 5:30 pm. to 7:00 p.m.

Join us for a delicious meal of Baked Ham. This month's entrée is served with rice pilaf and vegetables. Don't forget to visit the popular "Dessert Buffet", which includes coffee and tea to complete your dining experience. The dinners are \$13 (adult) and \$7 (child 10 and under). Diners may pay at the door. Dine in or take out.

Music Sunday, June 9 – Join us as we lift our voices to God, and celebrate music and our choirs! Our Music Ministries will be leading worship on this special day.

Children's Sunday, June 23 – All are welcome for a special worship service highlighting our Church School Children and recognizing our amazing Faith Formation Leaders!

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 for you.

Meetinghouse Moment #77

by Nora Howard, Church Historian



On May 26, 1819, Thomas F. Bishop, clerk and ACC founder, purchased the flagon (Sheffield silver plate) and four cups from Ward and Bartholomew in Hartford, and donated them to ACC for communion. On display in the sanctuary is the flagon and one cup. Over time the flagon was put in storage at the church, and ACC members found it in 1967. The church apparently sent several or all of the cups out for repair at the time of the Civil War, and they were never returned. It is unknown if this one cup is original to ACC's communion service. *Purchase record for the set is in the ACC archives.*

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
Kathy Smith, Office Manager	secretary@avon-church.org
Beth Ferrari, Administrator	administrator@avon-church.org
Joan Parks, Dir. of Avon Nursery School	avonnsdirector@gmail.com
Tom Blejewski, Sexton	
Church Phone Number	860-678-0488
Church Website	www.avon-church.org
Wi-Fi Access at Church	ACC-Public: Password – avonchurch



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.