

# CONNECTIONS

Mission Statement: To equip all to joyfully grow their faith, seek God's will and serve others within a welcoming community centered on Jesus Christ. Wethersfield United Methodist Church welcomes, into full participation in our community, all persons, regardless of sexual orientation, race, gender, age, ability, economic status, immigration status, or culture.

May 11, 2025

Wethersfield  
United Methodist Church

150 Prospect Street  
Wethersfield, CT 06109  
860-529-2025

info@wethersfieldchurch.org  
www.wethersfieldchurch.org



**"Tabitha/Dorcas,  
A Servant of the Lord"**  
Sermon by Rev. Dr. Marion Hubbard

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER/MOTHER'S DAY FESTIVAL OF THE CHRISTIAN HOME WORSHIP SERVICE AT 10:30 A.M.

*There will be an 8:30 a.m. Service of Communion, in the sanctuary, with Rev. Dr. Marion Hubbard on May 11. On May 18, there will not be an 8:30 a.m. service. Please see page 5 for more information.*

**Please join us for an in-person Worship Service, led by Rev. Dr. Marion Hubbard in the Sanctuary at church and on Zoom!**

For those who would prefer to stay at home and attend worship by Zoom, you will see our worship service in the Sanctuary! **The link for Zoom can be found on this page in the right column.**

Our worship slide show, which includes music lyrics, will be projected on our screen in the Sanctuary. *Mike Gowdy* will play piano, sing and lead music, *Mandy Draizen* will lead the Children's Moment, *Gary Schaffrick* will be honored during the "Recognition of Certified Lay Servant," *Doug Weed* will read Scripture, *William Weiner and Mike Gowdy* will perform a piano duet during the Offertory and *Jan Ironside* will lead Joys and Concerns.

### Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83972112794?pwd=XmVNCu6YKlQfebNzEtnyGhl3iSHnVu.1>

Meeting ID: 839 7211 2794  
Passcode: 150150

One tap mobile  
+16469313860,,83972112794#,,,,\*150150# US  
+19292056099,,83972112794#,,,,\*150150# US  
(New York)

Dial by your location  
• +1 646 931 3860 US  
• +1 929 205 6099 US (New York)  
• +1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)  
• +1 305 224 1968 US  
• +1 309 205 3325 US  
• +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)  
• +1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

Find your local number:  
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/kcL9wQYL8i>

**Following the service, please join us for Fellowship Hour.**

# IN THIS WEEK'S CONNECTIONS



From the Pastor.....	Page 3
Church Meeting, June 1.....	Page 3
The Office Administrator's Office Hours.....	Page 3
Red Cross Blood Drives.....	Page 4
Amrein Scholarships.....	Page 4
Counters Needed.....	Page 4
Help CA Wildfire Survivors.....	Page 4
Spring Fellowship Luncheon.....	Page 5
Senior Ladies Out to Lunch Bunch.....	Page 5
New 8:30 a.m. Service with Communion.....	Page 5
"Meet for Mahjong" Tuesdays.....	Page 5
150 Prospect Open Mic Experience and Coffee House.....	Page 6
Our New Pastor, Rev. Joshua Swanson.....	Page 7
Rev. Dr. Marion Hubbard to Offer Prayers.....	Page 7
A Walking Group.....	Page 8
WUMC Congregational Covenant.....	Page 8
Registration link for UM Army mixed age camp.....	Page 8
Fellowship Coffee Hour.....	Page 8
UM ARMY Golf Tournament Fundraiser.....	Page 9
UM ARMY Disaster Recovery Mission Trip.....	Page 10
Church Calendar, Birthdays and Anniversaries.....	Page 11

---

**Pastor:** The Rev. Dr. Marion Ryan Hubbard  
**Older Adult Ministry:** Jan Ironside  
**Music Ministry:** Michael Gowdy

**Office Administrator:** Karen Rudewicz  
**Treasurer:** Dawn Montenieri  
**Custodian:** Ryan O'Connor

---

## THE CONNECTIONS NEWSLETTER

To give everyone enough time to read *Connections* before the weekend starts, we email it to you on Thursdays. The deadline for submitting articles for *Connections* is 9:00 a.m. on Tuesdays.

**Tuesday, May 13 at 9:00 a.m.** is the deadline for the next issue of *Connections*. Thank you.

## FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Friends,

The clock is ticking. I have seven weeks left before I leave Wethersfield. It is a bittersweet time for me. I aim to make the most of this time before I leave. You have been wonderful. I'm taking the next seven weeks to enjoy being with all of you as much as I can, for I know it will be hard for me to leave. You have all been so wonderful.

In the meantime, there is much to do besides selling my furniture and packing up what I will be taking with me. I will be your pastor right up to the last minute. Feel free to call on me anytime if I can help in any way. God has truly blessed me with all of you. However, on July 1, you will have a great new pastor, Rev. Joshua Swanson. I know you are going to love him as you have loved me. He will be here for you. I feel confident that I am leaving you in good hands.

Please check the calendar and the entire Connections letter to see what is happening around our beautiful church. Remember it is your church and this church needs you. You all are the church's future. Remember to keep telling your story of how God has called you and how blessed you are to be a part of our church family.

Please note that on June 1, directly after the worship service, we will be having a church meeting to vote in two new trustees, Tim Warweg and Craig Sullivan. Please mark your calendars. We need you to vote. Thanks.

God loves you and so do I. And, there is nothing you can do about it.

Lovingly,  
Pastor Marion

### **Contact information and office hours for Pastor Marion:**

Cell: 203-241-9763

Email: [pastormarion@wethersfieldchurch.org](mailto:pastormarion@wethersfieldchurch.org)

Office Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday  
from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Days off: Friday, Saturday and Monday

Please call first before coming to see  
Pastor Marion, to make sure she is not on an  
emergency call somewhere else.

Thank you.

## CHURCH MEETING JUNE 1

**On June 1, there will be a church meeting directly after our worship service.**

Please make every effort to attend. We are voting in two new trustees,

*Craig Sullivan and Tim Warweg.* Thank You.



## THE OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR'S OFFICE HOURS

**Karen, the Office Administrator for WUMC,  
has the following office hours:**

Mondays: 9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Wednesdays: 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Thursdays: 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Days off: Saturday and Sunday

## RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVES

Gerry and I enjoy facilitating Red Cross Blood Drives. We would appreciate having a few other church members to serve as backup if we are unable to be present for any unexpected reason. It involves unlocking the room at 7:00 a.m. and setting up tables and chairs, and taking them down and securing the building at 2:00 p.m. Please contact us if you are willing.

A Blood Drive will be held on **May 17, 2025.** - *Gerry and Grace Hayes*

## AMREIN SCHOLARSHIPS



### **Amrein Scholarship applications are due by May 23**

This WUMC scholarship was established in 1976 in memory of Rev Arthur Amrein. He was our only pastor to serve this congregation in both our original Main Street church and this present church building. Information about eligibility and application forms are available in the Cool Jude Youth Room and at the Community Connections Board in the hallway to the Family Life Center. **Completed applications need to be in Grace Hayes' church office mail box by May 23.** Scholarship awards will be presented during worship on Children and Youth Sunday on June 8. Please call Grace Hayes with any questions.

## COUNTERS NEEDED

### **Subject: Counters Needed**

Gerry Hayes has generously served as our primary Counter (to count our Sunday church offerings after church), and a few others have helped count for a particular month. In fairness to Gerry and to have more people with this expertise, I'm asking for volunteers to contact me (either by email or phone) to sign up to do a month or two of counting during 2025. Gerry will provide the needed training to all new volunteers. Thank you.

Doug Weed   [weedd721@aol.com](mailto:weedd721@aol.com)   (860)-707-6636

## HELP CALIFORNIA WILDFIRE SURVIVORS

### **Please give to Global Ministries/UMCOR to help California Wildfire Survivors**

**To give by check, please send checks  
payable to Advance GCFA to:**

Global Ministries | UMCOR  
GPO  
P.O. BOX 9068  
NEW YORK, NY 10087-9068

**To give online, please click on the link below:**

[Global Ministries - UMCOR US Disaster Response and Recovery](#)

## SPRING FELLOWSHIP LUNCHEON



### Spring Fellowship Luncheon for Seniors

Hello Seniors (men and women), there will be a Spring Fellowship Luncheon on **May 20, at 11:30 a.m. in the FLC**. It's a catered luncheon, cost is \$12/person. Cash or checks payable to Jan Ironside. Our own **Martha Arnold** will be sharing with us her adventures singing on Broadway and around the world. There may also be a challenging game or two. We'd love to see you there. You can RSVP by email to Jan, or sign up on the Community Connections Board by May 18.

## SENIOR LADIES OUT TO LUNCH BUNCH



**From Jan Ironside: Here are the dates for the Senior Ladies Out to Lunch Bunch**

June 12 at 11:30 a.m. - Maggie McFly's, Glastonbury

## NEW 8:30 AM SERVICE WITH COMMUNION

**New - An 8:30 - 9:00 a.m. Worship Service with Communion on Sundays**

**Please Note: On May 18, there will not be an 8:30 a.m. service.**

The 8:30 a.m. service includes an opening prayer, a Scripture reading, a short but meaningful sermon, Prayers of the People, weekly communion, and a worship hymn. Those who need to be at an earlier service, please come. Those who like weekly communion, please come. You can participate in either the 8:30 or 10:30 a.m. service or both. The 10:30 a.m. service will have communion only on the first Sunday of the month. No preparation is required for the 8:30 a.m. service. Pastor Marion will provide the communion elements and a disc with the hymn that we will sing.

## "MEET FOR MAHJONG" TUESDAYS

The "Meet for Mahjong" group meets **every Tuesday morning, from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon** in the Old Fellowship Hall. Those who have been playing for awhile, those who have just learned how to play and those who would like to learn how to play. . .All are welcome!!! Our goal is to enjoy each other's company and have some fun.



# 150 PROSPECT

## 150 Prospect Open Mic Experience and Coffee House on May 10

Jeffrey Roche will anchor on May 10! In his own words, "Music has always played the monumental role of carrying me through the darkest moments of my life. I come from a very musical family, so learning and performing music was a daily experience for me. My Mother worked as a music teacher for over 30 years and served as the organist/choir director at my childhood church. All the way



through school, I performed in choirs and concert bands. I also became a member of my high school's marching band and during my freshman year, I traveled to California to perform in the Rose Bowl Parade, Disneyland, and Universal Studios. During my senior year, I began to teach myself how to play the guitar. I continued to write and perform original music, which mainly consisted of singing about my friends and issues that one encounters in their daily life. However, as I began making the decision to return to a Christian lifestyle, I began writing and performing music that would encourage others towards believing in Jesus and using it as an opportunity to share my personal testimony. I am also involved in performing with other Christian music groups. In 2018, I began attending New Life Church in Wallingford, CT and I have been faithfully serving as a member of their worship team. It has been an absolute blessing to use my musical ability in this way. As I continue to develop and build upon the gifts that Jesus has given me, I have begun to search for new ways to perform and the opportunity to expand upon what Jesus has given me."



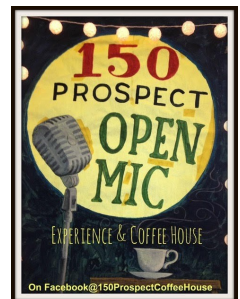
150 PROSPECT is substance-free, open to all. Musicians, singers, poets, dancers and comedians ages 14 and up may perform. Performers play two tunes, up to ten-minute sets. Microphones, amps and a keyboard (piano) are available. There are no restrictions on respectful content. Free homemade soups, chili, desserts, coffee and soft drinks are available.

Guests are asked to bring a non-perishable food item for neighbors in need.  
Please visit: [www.150prospect.org](http://www.150prospect.org).

A free-will donation is welcomed. 150 Prospect is located at 150 Prospect Street, Wethersfield, CT.

*150 Prospect runs from October to May and there is no charge for entry. This WUMC ministry began in 2015 and we've been blessed with many new friendships as we continue to offer a substance-free venue for performers and audiences alike.*

*For more information, contact Tanja Moriarty, [860-614-5158](tel:860-614-5158), or [tanjem265@gmail.com](mailto:tanjem265@gmail.com)*



## OUR NEW PASTOR, REV. JOSHUA SWANSON

Dear Friends in Christ,

We joyfully announce to all of you that the Bishop and his cabinet members have selected a new pastor for our church. His name is Rev. Joshua Swanson. He will start on July 1, 2025.

Joshua Swanson is the youngest of six children, the son of Bishop James E. Swanson and Delphine R. Swanson. Josh has lived all over the South. As the son of a pastor, Josh has lived in many places like Savannah, Georgia; Knoxville, Tennessee; Atlanta, Georgia; and many more. Joshua received his Bachelor of Science from the University of Tennessee - Chattanooga, where he met his future wife, Lashay Swanson. After graduating from UTC, Joshua went to Candler School of Theology, where he received his M.Div. Then, he was appointed to Ketron Memorial UMC (now GMC) in 2017, where he and Shay would have their first (and only) child, Aria Swanson. Josh has served as the Director of two Wesley Foundations, one in Augusta and one in Carrollton, GA.

God Bless you all,  
The SPPRC

## REV. DR. MARION HUBBARD TO OFFER PRAYERS

### Rev. Dr. Marion Hubbard will offer prayers at the Wethersfield Memorial Day Parade



Please come out to the Memorial Day Parade on **Saturday, May 24, 2025** to hear Rev. Dr. Marion Hubbard offer the Invocation Prayer and the Benediction. Memorial Day honors all men and women who have died while serving in the military for the United States of America. **The parade will step off at 9:00 a.m., starting on State Street by the DMV (Department of Motor Vehicles).**

Immediately following the Parade, there will be a Memorial Day Ceremony at Village Cemetery.

Please click on this link to view all information: <https://www.wethersfieldct.gov/memorial-day>

### Rain Plans

In the event of inclement weather, the ceremonies will be moved indoors to Wethersfield High School and will begin at 10:00 a.m. The latest information will be announced on the Parks and Recreation Department program information line at (860) 721-2890. An announcement will also be posted in the announcements area of the home page of the town web site.

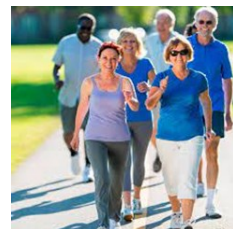
---

**There will be a Blessing of the Bikes, Saturday, May 31, at 10:00 a.m. in the WUMC parking lot. Please see the next issue of Connections for more information. Thank you.**

## A WALKING GROUP

### Roll Call! Let's get HEALTHY!!

We are inquiring if anyone is interested in a walking group, which will be open to all. We would meet once a week, weather permitting. If interested, please email Deb Draizen or call Chasity Fuggetta 860-256-5188.



### Congregational Covenant Wethersfield UMC 2022

We covenant together to create a community that supports one another, celebrates one another, and recognizes that each of us seeks to find in the body of Christ a place of safety, affirmation, and joy. Our communication will be guided by the biblical admonition to "speak the truth in love" (Ephesians 4:15), which means that we will express our convictions and feelings honestly, but also with sensitivity to the concerns of others.

We recognize that God calls us to different ministries and commitments. We will respect and support our church staff and all who accept office or commit themselves to the service of this church. When conflict or disagreement

arises, we will address each other directly. We will speak with people, not about people. If direct conversation does not resolve a conflict, we will seek God's guidance and appropriate help whenever we find our own wisdom inadequate. We may not always come to an agreement, but we will respect the decision of the majority and strive to maintain unity in the spirit of Christian Love.

We covenant to pray together to sustain and deepen our love relationship with God, whom we cannot love without loving one another (John 13:34-35, 1 John 4:20-21). We affirm this covenant, trusting in God's power to enable us to live it with courage, love, and compassion.

God be with you all,

Pastor Marion

## REGISTRATION LINK FOR UM ARMY

### Here's the registration link for the UM Army mixed aged camp

Please see the link below for another opportunity to participate in UM Army - the mixed aged camp (you have to have completed 6th grade) - Sunday July 13th thru Saturday, July 19th in Shelton, CT. They are asking that we register as soon as possible so they can start planning for camps. Gina Grubbs will be doing programs so this will be a great camp! Please let me know if you are holding off due to a potential conflict or for some other reason. We have had very generous donations toward scholarships so please don't let finances be the reason you don't join us.

Individual Registration Link: <https://www.umarmy.net/Registration/Indv/4704/>

Please see pages 9 and 10 for more UM Army news!



## FELLOWSHIP COFFEE HOUR

### Please, will you provide some goodies for Fellowship Coffee Hour on Sundays?

**From Betty:** I am asking for goodies as follows:

First Sunday	Last names starting with A-C
Second Sunday	Last names starting with D-I
Third Sunday	Last names starting with J-Q

Fourth Sunday	Last names starting with R-W
Fifth Sunday	Anyone on a Committee

Many thanks to all who contribute goodies for Coffee Hour.



# UM ARMY GOLF TOURNAMENT FUNDRAISER

For anyone in the Congregation - youth and young at heart. Please see below for a few UM Army opportunities - the annual golf tournament and a young adult camp in May. Please see page 8 for information on registration for the July 13 - 19 camp. Please let Judy Dowd know if you have any interest in any of these opportunities.

Registration is open for U.M. ARMY Northeast's 2nd Annual Swing for the Green! Details are below. Come out and support youth mission. Don't golf? Support us by sponsoring our event or joining us for our cocktail hour and dinner. Click this link to sign up:

<https://umarmy.networkforgood.com/.../83595-2nd-annual...>

**UNITED MISSION**

**U.M. ARMY NORTHEAST**

**2ND ANNUAL SWING FOR THE GREEN**

**GOLF OUTING & DINNER**

**BENEFITING YOUTH MISSIONS**

18 Holes of Golf  
Lunch  
Prizes and Local Craft Beer Tastings  
19th Hole Cocktail Hour  
Dinner  
Silent Auction

Sponsorships available!

Lyman Orchards Golf Club  
Middlefield, CT

**Friday, May 16th, 2025**

AT 1PM

GOLF & DINNER  
**\$155**

COCKTAIL HOUR & DINNER ONLY  
**\$65**

UNITED IN MISSION

UNITED IN MISSION

(Continued on next page)

# UM ARMY DISASTER RECOVERY MISSION TRIP

*(Continued from previous page)*

You've known us as a youth mission organization, helping homeowners in need of home repair. Now U.M. ARMY is joining in and helping our friends in Vermont repair and rebuild after extensive flooding. We are offering a Disaster Recovery Mission Trip for participants 18+. Go to [umarmy.org](https://www.umarmy.org) to register your group or use the individual registration link here:

<https://www.umarmy.net/Registration/Single/Northeast/>

## UNITED IN MISSION ADULT MISSION DISASTER RECOVERY TRIP

U.M. ARMY IS COORDINATING A DISASTER RECOVERY  
MISSION TRIP TO VERMONT!!

JOIN US FOR A WEEK OF REPAIR AND REBUILD FOR OUR  
FRIENDS IN THE NEW ENGLAND CONFERENCE.

MAY 25-31, 2025

CABOT, VERMONT

THE TEAM WILL BE STAYING AT THE COVENANT HILLS  
CAMPGROUND IN CABOT, VERMONT

CONTACT [GINAGRUBBS@UMARMY.ORG](mailto:GINAGRUBBS@UMARMY.ORG) OR

TO REGISTER YOUR GROUP, GO TO:  
[UMARMY.ORG](https://www.umarmy.org)

TO REGISTER INDIVIDUALLY GO TO:  
[HTTPS://WWW.UMARMY.NET/REGISTRATION/SINGLE/NORTHEAST/](https://www.umarmy.net/Registration/Single/Northeast/)

COST PER PARTICIPANT IS \$325 AND INCLUDES:

ROOM AND BOARD - BED  
ON-SITE SHOWERS  
ALL FOOD  
12 WORSHIP SERVICES/DEVOTIONS  
PRAYER JOURNEY  
T-SHIRT  
INSURANCE  
TRIP COORDINATION  
ALL PROJECT FUNDS



## CALENDAR

**Please note: The information in this calendar is based on the online calendar as of May 7.**

### **SUNDAY, May 11 - Happy Mother's Day**

- 8:30 a.m. Worship Service with Communion
- Sunday School at 9:30 - 10:15 a.m. in various classrooms
- Fourth Sunday of Easter/Mother's Day/Festival of the Christian Home Worship Service, in the Sanctuary and by Zoom at 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.
- Fellowship Hour at 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., FLC

### **MONDAY, May 12**

Wordly Women at 9:30 - 11:00 a.m., Fireside Room  
Rental at 4:00 - 6:30 p.m. in the FLC and Kitchen  
Wordly Women at 6:30 - 8:00 p.m., Fireside Room  
Rental at 7:00 - 9:30 p.m. in the FLC

### **TUESDAY, May 13**

Morning Prayer at 10:00 a.m. in the Fireside Room  
Meet for Mahjong at 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.  
in Old Fellowship Hall  
Rental at 4:00 - 8:00 in the FLC and Kitchen  
Trustees Meeting at 6:30 p.m. in the Fireside Room  
Rental at 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. in Old Fellowship Hall

### **WEDNESDAY, May 14**

Rental at 6:30 - 9:00 a.m. in the FLC  
Rental at 4:00 - 8:00 p.m. in the FLC and Kitchen  
Finance Meeting at 6:45 p.m. in the Fireside Room

### **THURSDAY, May 15**

Creative Pastimes at 1:00 - 3:00 p.m., Fireside Room  
Rental at 4:00 - 8:00 p.m. in the FLC and Kitchen

### **FRIDAY, May 16**

Rental at 4:00 - 8:00 p.m. in the FLC and Kitchen

### **SATURDAY, May 17**

Red Cross Blood Drive at 7:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m., FLC  
Rental at 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m., Old Fellowship Hall

### **SUNDAY, May 18**

- NO 8:30 a.m. Worship
  - Sunday School at 9:30 - 10:15 a.m. in various classrooms
  - Fifth Sunday of Easter Worship Service, in the Sanctuary and by Zoom at 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.
  - Fellowship Hour at 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., FLC
- Rental at 2:00 - 5:00 p.m. in Old Fellowship Hall

---

## CELEBRATIONS!

### **Birthday (May 11- 18)**

5/12 Sharon Richwine  
5/16 Hannah Sabourin  
5/18 Terri Gaston

### **Anniversary (May 11- 18)**

5/17 Amy and Chris Strickland

Please contact Karen, Office Administrator, if your birthday or anniversary is not included here or if you have any changes and/or corrections to these lists. Thank you.

**Wethersfield United Methodist Church**  
150 Prospect Street  
Wethersfield, CT 06109