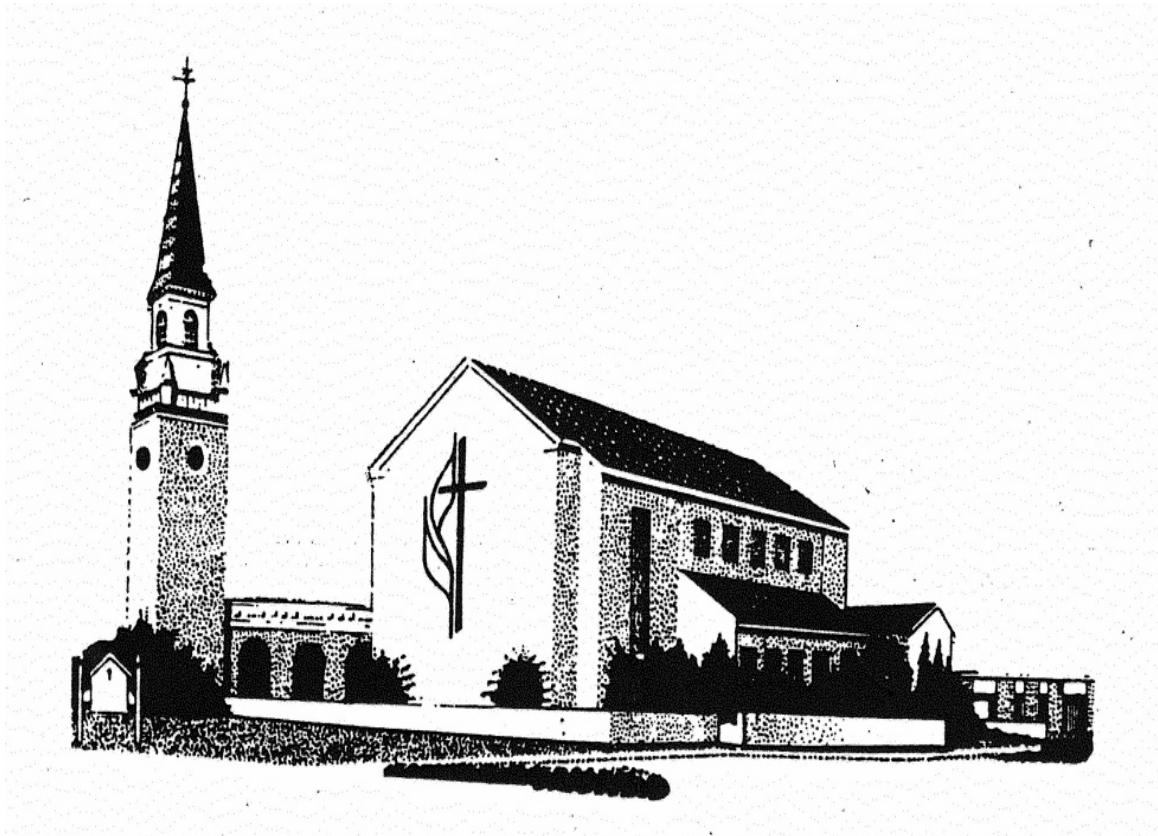


**THE GOOD NEWS**  
From The  
**Stratford United Methodist Church**

2600 MAIN STREET • STRATFORD, CT 06615-5893  
SUMC phone: 203-375-5851 ~ fax: 203-375-6890

*SUMC & Good News email: [secretary@sumcct.org](mailto:secretary@sumcct.org)*  
*SUMC website: [www.sumcct.org](http://www.sumcct.org)*

**NOVEMBER 2024**



**The Rev. Suhee Kim, Pastor**  
**Affiliated Pastors: Rev. Caroly Gibson,**  
**Rev. George Hilton, Rev. James Stinson**  
**Chris Muller, Director of Music**  
**Beth Buckmir, Preschool Director**  
**Church Office: Beth Sullivan, Secretary**



# Worship Schedule

Our 8:15 Service is in the Chapel every Sunday, except on Communion Sunday (first Sunday of the month) where all commune together at 10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary.

Our Traditional Worship is in our Sanctuary every Sunday at 10:00 a.m.

We are also live streaming worship on our [YouTube channel](#).

## SUNDAY SCHOOL SCHEDULE

**November 3rd - No Sunday School**  
November 10th - Sunday School  
November 17th - Sunday School  
November 24th - Thanksgiving Food Drive

**December 1st - No Sunday School**  
December 8th - Sunday School  
December 15th - Advent Celebration  
December 21st - Cantata Rehearsal  
December 22nd - Cantata  
**December 29th - No Sunday School**



# Consecration Sunday



**Consecration Sunday is Sunday, November 3rd.** We will hold a Celebration Potluck Lunch at 11:15 a.m. in the All Purpose Room. Sign up to bring your specialty (serves approx. 5) on the sign-up board located in the narthex. The last day to sign up is Friday, November 1st.



**All Saints' Day is Sunday, November 3rd.** If you would like your loved one(s) to be remembered during the service, please provide their name(s) to the Church Office so they can be included.



**Join Bible Study Tuesday, 2:00 p.m. on Zoom. Call church office to get link. We are studying Simon Peter—an ordinary fisherman who heard an extraordinary call. All are welcome.**



# Pumpkin Decorating Fellowship



# Pumpkin Decorating Fellowship (CONTINUED)







## Pumpkin Bread Fundraiser

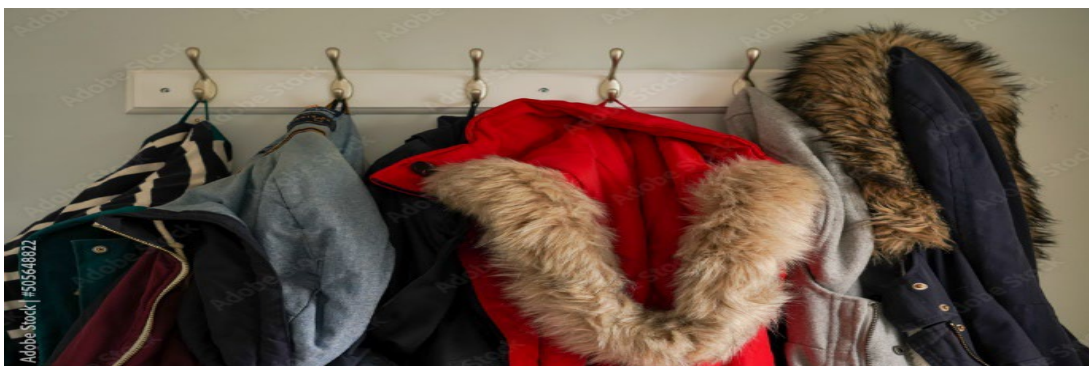
We are looking for volunteers to bake pumpkin bread to sell during worship services on Sunday, November 3<sup>rd</sup> in memory of Flo Costa, using her famous recipe.



Arts and Crafts will meet on Wednesday November the 13th at 1:00 pm in the All Purpose Room at Church.! We will finalize the Christmas boxes for the Neighborhood Breakfast and make some tags. Everyone is welcome. No talent needed, just willing hands.



## Take a Coat/Leave a Coat



It's time for our Take a Coat/Leave a Coat ministry! We are in need of coats of all sizes to put in the tent on the lawn from November 1<sup>st</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup>.

Coats can be left on the rack in the narthex or hung up in the tent during the giveaway. Please pass the word along to anyone who has a coat to donate or is in need of one for this winter!

## INCIDENTS AND HAPPENINGS

### OUT OF OUR PAST

#### The Great Bell

High in our church tower steeple hangs the “Great Bell.” For 160 years this bell has called the faithful to worship on Sunday, pealed joyously at weddings, marked 12 noon each day, and tolled at the funerals of both saints and sinners. This 1500-pound bell was cast by the Jones and Company Bell Foundry in Troy, New York in 1863. The plans for the “Second Church, “ built in 1839, included a tower, and a possible bell. But it was not until 1862 and 1863 that serious fund-raising events, in the form of church fairs organized by the Ladies Aid Society, were held to finance a bell. Over \$500 was raised for the purchase. The church was proud to have this bell help proclaim the end of the Civil War in Stratford. The bell was rehung in the “Third Church,” built in 1902. The “Fourth Church” was built in 1972, but the bell tower was not completed until 1976, so the bell spent several years on the front lawn. It was rehung with electronic controls so it can ring as programmed as well as manually.

The bell casting process has remained virtually unchanged since medieval times. The processes and techniques have been passed down over the years from master’s to journeymen bell casters. Careful and deliberate measurements have to be taken for the desired bell size and tone.

**MOLDING:** The construction of the mold is the first step in bell casting. The mold is composed of an outer “cope” and the inner core. The mold is built of bricks and loam (a closely guarded secret mixture of clay, goat’s hair, and horse manure). Both parts of the mold are smoothed and polished, then dried in an oven, coated with graphite, and clamped together. The empty space between the two parts is then filled with molten metal.

**CASTING:** The metal used in the casting is an alloy of 77% copper and 23% tin heated to 2140 degrees F in a huge furnace. The molten metal is poured from the furnace into a massive ladle, which is then brought to the mold on an overhead crane. The ladle is carefully tilted to pour the molten metal into the mold. After a day of cooling, the mold is broken open to reveal the bell.

**CLEANING AND TUNING:** After the mold loam has been removed, the surface cleaned and polished, the bell must be tuned in order to produce a pleasing tone when struck. Tuning takes place on a vertical boring mill that works like a potter’s wheel. While spinning upside down on the mill, metal is cut from the bell’s interior until the desired tone is achieved.

**CLAPPER:** The bell clapper is molded from wrought iron in a similar process as the bell, using a mold. The clapper is designed specifically for the bell at the proper weight, as a clapper that is too light will not bring out the true tones of the bell and a heavy clapper might cause the bell to crack. Holes are drilled into the top of the bell, and the clapper is attached to the inside of the bell either by a metal link or a leather strap.

Remember that there are many bells throughout the world—but our “Great Bell” in our church steeple tolls for you.

TRUNK OR TREAT OCTOBER 27





TRUNK OR TREAT OCTOBER 27 (CONTINUED)





The Church Library was gifted 10 new books this fall. Some are from Bible Study groups, but others enlarge our understanding of our faith, and those who have fought for it.

Clark-Soles, Jaime. **1 Corinthians: Searching the depths of God.** Abingdon Press, 2021. 227 C

Hamilton, Adam. **John: the Gospel of Light and Life.** Abingdon Press, 2015. 226.5 H

Hamilton, Adam. **The Journey: Walking the road to Bethlehem.** 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Edition. Abingdon Press, 2021. 394.2 H

Hamilton, Adam. **Moses: in the footsteps of the Reluctant Prophet.** Abingdon Press, 2017. 224 H

Hamilton, Adam. **24 Hours that changed the world.** Expanded paperback edition. Abingdon Press, 2016. 232.9 H

Hamilton, Adam. **The Walk: Five essential practices of the Christian Life.** Abingdon, 2019. 248 H

Lewis, C. S. **Mere Christianity;** a revised and amplified edition. Harper Collins, 2001. 230 L

Lewis, C. S. **The Problem of Pain.** Harper Collins, 2001. 231.8 L

Metaxas, Eric. **Bonhoeffer: Pastor, Martyr, Prophet, Spy.** Thomas Nelson, 2010. Bio Bon

Pietsch, William. **The Serenity Prayer.** Harper San Francisco, 1990. 242.7 P







### Choir News

We always seeking new Choir members and Grace Notes Handbell Choir members for this season. If you know someone who loves to sing or reads music, or would like to try playing the handbells, please let them know!

If you play an instrument, we would love it if you shared your talents with us in worship.

If you're interested in joining or have questions, please speak to Chris after worship or send an email to [music.director@sumcct.org](mailto:music.director@sumcct.org).

Required rehearsal times are flexible.

There is also an option to sign up to participate in the seasonal Advent/Christmas and/or Palm Sunday/Easter choir.

### Support our Music Program

If you would like to support the music program, donations can be made to the Church with a note/notation intending their direct support of this important ministry.

Your support allows us to hire extra musicians and singers for special events such as our seasonal Cantatas (Palm Sunday and Christmas) and Easter services.

Thank you!

*Chris Muller, Director of Music*



### **Ten Commandments of Aging**

1. Do not refer to yourself as "old".
2. Do not worry about wrinkles - you have earned them.
3. Do not sit all day- keep it moving! ( As able)
4. Do not ever stop reading and learning.
5. Do not talk ONLY about your health - except to your Doctor.
6. Do not turn down a "good time" - make one!
7. Do not throw away your "Bucket List" - just revise it,
8. Do not hibernate - leave that to the bears.
9. Do not waste a day-you are fortunate to have them.
10. Do not regret - just "re-do".

**Thank the Lord for Each new day and make the most of it!**

## Community Outreach Opportunities

### **SUMC Neighborhood Breakfast**

The Neighborhood Breakfast is **every third Saturday at SUMC**. Eat-in breakfast will be served from 8:30am to 10am. Guests will be greeted at the back parking lot entrance. We would greatly appreciate your help serving breakfast, donating items, or your time, if you can. If you are interested in helping, send a message to [missions@sumcct.org](mailto:missions@sumcct.org).

**Next month's breakfast will be Saturday, November 16th.**

**Please donate breakfast items such as fruit, granola bars, muffins, yogurt, etc.**

**Thank you for your donations!**

**Toiletry Items are Being Accepted!**

**Our team has been sharing donated toiletry items with guests who attend our monthly Neighborhood Breakfast. These items are greatly appreciated, and we could use more donations to offer at breakfasts in the months ahead.**

**There is a donation bin located in the narthex, and both men's and women's items are being accepted. We will gladly accept any size item (full size, samples, etc.). Donations suggestions include (but are not limited to): soap, shampoo/conditioner, toothpaste/toothbrush, deodorant, razors/shaving cream, lotion, tissues, and feminine products.**

### **Golden Hill UMC Community Supper - Volunteers Needed**

The Golden Hill United Methodist Church in downtown Bridgeport is one of several Bridgeport churches that provide evening meals for those in need on different evenings of the week. Golden Hill hosts a meal every Wednesday. They provide the food, the location, and the planning. Others volunteer to provide the labor.

**Our upcoming turn at Golden Hill UMC Community Supper is Wednesday, December 18th.**

A cook and about 3 additional volunteers will be needed to start around 2:30 - 3:00 to prepare the meals. One to two volunteers will be needed to stay and help pack the meals from 5:30 on. Please contact Pat Knebel ([pknebel@yahoo.com](mailto:pknebel@yahoo.com)) if you are interested in volunteering.

### **The Lord's Kitchen**

The next Lord's Kitchen will be on Monday, December 16th.





"We need helping hands to put up our **Christmas decorations** after the 10:00am service on November 24. This is a joyful way to prepare for the season of Advent and usually only takes about an hour. All help is appreciated."

### **The schedule for the Advent/Christmas season**

Dec 1 - joint choir with First Baptist at 10:00 am service

Dec 8 - "Songs of the Season". A singalong program for everyone at 11:30 am following worship. A selection of carols, choir, organ and popular Christmas songs. Open to the public.

Dec 15 - Choir & friends to go caroling to our shut ins followed by hot chocolate and goodies back at the church narthex. (Time to be determined)

Dec 22 - 10:00 am - Choir Christmas cantata, "This is Christmas" by Mary McDonald (our first with words and music by a woman composer) along with a more contemporary look at the Christmas story with our Children's pageant. We will be joined by guest singers Christina Holms & Michael Cartwright. In addition to the 2 guest singers Jerold Goldstein, the pianist that did the Lenten cantata last Palm Sunday will also be joining us

## NYAC/CT District News



### **Donate to UMCOR for Hurricane Relief**

Friends, our Siblings in Christ in the southeastern states of Florida, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia and Tennessee are beginning to recover from the catastrophic impacts of Hurricane Helene. You may have seen the images, videos and stories from flood victims and survivors as they assess the property and lives lost in their communities and beyond. The devastation is unimaginable. They need our prayers and help.

**If you have the ability and desire to contribute to disaster response, there are Two Ways to Give through UMCOR, the United Methodist Committee on Relief.**

1. You can give directly to UMCOR by visiting this webpage: <https://umcmission.org/advance-project/901670/>. Click on the Red Donate button to bring your contribution.

2. You can Write A Check to UMCOR, with "**UMCOR Advance #901670**" in the memo line, and send to:

UMCOR

458 Ponce De Leon Avenue NE,

Building A, Suite 1

Atlanta, GA 30308

Every dollar given to UMCOR goes directly to disaster response, relief and recovery.

To keep up with UMCOR's response to Hurricane Helene, you can follow UMCOR on their [Facebook page](#).

### **Join me in prayer:**

Oh God who calmed the waves and the winds, send your grace and mercy to those whose who have been impacted by hurricanes, floods and other disasters. Comfort and heal the suffering, send rest for the weary, and provide a safe haven for those who have lost all they have called home. May the might of your loving-kindness be felt through the generosity of angels and strangers. In the mighty name of Jesus we pray, AMEN.

Please keep families, communities, and emergency response teams in your prayers over the coming days and weeks.

In Christ,

*Rev. Doris K. Dalton*

Director of Connectional Ministries



# 2024 LAITY Convocation



Presenter  
**TODD COX**  
Strengths Coach



We will use the CliftonStrengths Assessment to discover & develop your greatest talents.

**NOVEMBER 16, 2024**

9:30 am - 3:00 pm

Sonesta Hotel Downtown White Plains  
66 Hale Avenue, White Plains, NY 10601

**REGISTER NOW**

*Deadline: October 31, 2024*

Registration \$30.00 per person

For additional information contact:

Gail Douglas-Boykin at  
Layleader@nyac.com



Our facilitator, Todd Cox is a higher education professional and a Gallup-Certified Strengths Coach. In this role he helps people achieve their goals



## A Thought to Share:

We can anticipate the day we have awakened to with a feeling of promise or dread. There will be situations, no doubt, that we'd rather not face. Petty irritations may shadow us part of the day, but most likely we'll find a few circumstances to laugh over. We will find more of these circumstances if we choose. The attitude we have today will determine the quality of our day. Find the joy in your day and share joy with others. God is Good!

Grace and peace friends,

I'm so very excited to see you all at the Sonesta Hotel Downtown White Plains for the upcoming Laity Convocation on November 16, 2024.

**Gathering begins at 9:00 am - 9:30 am for beverages and fellowship.**

We will start our day with Bishop Thomas J. Bickerton, who will bring our devotion and update us on his role as the Episcopal Leader both the New York and New England Conferences.

**Do you have the opportunity to do what you do best every day?**

Chances are, you don't. All too often, our natural talents go untapped. We devote more time to fixing our shortcomings than to developing our strengths.

# Thanksgiving Word Search

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, "Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."

F J P Y I G P R A Y E R S M Y S R R G E  
Y G G N G B R C H U R C H B R G E Y O K  
E L B A T O U A A G E R F E G N T L B A  
T R E S S E D U T Z R E V B N I H I B B  
Y W N C T N T F Z I L O G I I S G M L G  
Y A D S R U H T C L T R D C V S U A E A  
P H Q O M M S W O F A U E X I E A F J P  
P V C N V E O W E V I P D B G L L X E K  
R U C G V U S L Y X E G N E M B M D S V  
F D M R N H T D G S L V O N F E V P U L  
X E A P I I Y T I N U M M O C X V I S P  
H H A P K I R A J T I C E R C Q K O D I  
K F L S V I R E Z J F R H Q H T C R N P  
R X D D T P N A H R X C A R R U U W P V  
N K R Y T R A D I T I O N H I M G O I J  
T U R K E Y E E E D A R A P S S O R E I  
F N I T C N N V O R Q G C T T P T S L A  
I T L X G D Q B O I K B I I I E C H T G  
P M U A S B D W T L F C Y C A K H I W A  
Y U M V T L Q G A E K Y W Q N I U P R M

## Word Bank

AUTUMN	FEAST	GOD	LEFTOVERS	PRAISE	TRADITION
BAKE	FELLOWSHIP	GRATITUDE	LOVE	PRAYERS	TURKEY
BLESSINGS	FRIENDS	GRAVY	NAP	PUMPKIN	WORSHIP
CHRIST	GATHERING	HARVEST	NOVEMBER	SHARING	YUM
CHRISTIAN	GIVING	JESUS	PARADE	TABLE	
CHURCH	GOBBLE	LAUGHTER	PIE	THURSDAY	