

THE GOOD NEWS
From The
Stratford United Methodist Church

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SUMC website: www.sumcct.org

OCTOBER 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

October 6th - Sunday School
October 13th - No Sunday School
October 20th - Sunday School
October 27th - Trunk or Treat

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



Sept 8, cake and water ballons



ASP & Rally Day Sunday, September 8th. We celebrated the ASP mission, returning of Sunday School and our new student pastor, Abby Langford.



Coffee hour is back if you would like to host, sign-up sheets are located on the table in the narthex.

COME VISIT OUR PUMPKIN PATCH



The Pumpkin Patch will officially open following the 10:00 a.m. service on Sunday, September 29th and run through Halloween, Thursday, October 31st.

Volunteers (two or more per shift) are also needed to help run the Patch. Pumpkin Patch hours will be as follows:

Monday through Friday: 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Saturday: 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Sunday: 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

A sign-up calendar will be posted in the narthex beginning Sunday, September 1st.

Both full and partial shift coverage is welcome and greatly appreciated.

The more pumpkins sold, the more money that comes back to the church, so let's make this our best year yet!

Thank you for all your support!
Chris Muller & Robyn Hunter, co-chairs
Pumpkin Patch Committee



INCIDENTS AND HAPPENINGS OUT OF OUR PAST

Africa University: a Beacon of Hope

Methodists have always put their faith into action, helping others by starting missions, schools, and hospitals. The Five Points Mission to help the improvised folk of the Bowery in New York City was founded in 1853. There are Methodist hospitals in many states: Texas, Tennessee, Indiana, New York. As a child I put dimes in a little red cardboard stocking at Christmas to support the Brooklyn Methodist Hospital, now part of a consortium. The United Methodist church is affiliated with 94 schools of higher education, here and abroad, some of which were started as seminaries to train preachers and church leaders, and others as vocational or high schools for blacks.

In the 1980s a movement started in the United Methodist Church to build a college in Africa, to train preachers, scientists, farmers, and leaders. This was to fulfill a dream of Bishop John Hartzell, who in 1898 stood on Mount Chirembe above Old Mutare in Zimbabwe, the site of an established Methodist mission, and “looking down upon the valley, envisioned hundreds of young Africans with books in their hands, running to school.” In 1984 two African Bishops, Emilio J. M. Carvalho of Angola and Arthur F. Kulah of Liberia, along with thousands of African Methodists, challenged the members of the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry (GBHEM) to support the establishment of a university in Africa. In 1988 a formal proposal for a university in Africa went before the General Conference meeting in St Louis, Missouri. The proposal passed but it took several years to find a site, build the campus, and recruit the teachers.

The first students were enrolled in 1992: 40 came to study in one of the two departments: agriculture or divinity. Today there are over 2250 students from more than 25 African nations studying in one of 5 departments:

1. College of Business, Peace, Leadership and Government
2. College of Engineering and Applied Science
3. College of Health, Agriculture and Natural Science
4. College of Social Science, Theology, Humanities and Education
5. School of Law

And there are over 10,000 graduates of the university living and working in their home countries in Africa to make a better world.



**Automatic altar flower orders are ongoing.
Contributions towards our dedicated flower fund
are always welcome and greatly appreciated!**

**If you would like to make an altar flower
dedication, please contact JoAnn Schif
at (203) 513-0514.**

Music in Ministry

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

Grace Notes Handbell Choir



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.

Required rehearsal times are flexible.

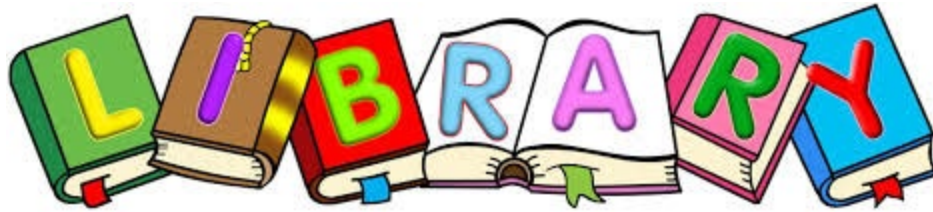
There is also an option to sign up to participate in the seasonal Advent/Christmas and/or Palm Sunday/Easter choir.

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



Our Church Library

Our Church Library was for many years lovingly maintained by Alexandra Vanderclock in the Friendship Room. She first began as a helper in the Library, and later, as Director of Christian Education beginning in 1985, she built up a collection of resources for the use of the church schoolteachers on child development, teaching methods, and creative programs. She added new book titles, new formats (first audio tapes, then videos, lastly DVDs), kept track of the items checked out, begged for the return of items out, dusted, straightened, and kept the card catalog in order. Alex wrote articles for the *Good News* about the Library, urged its use, and displayed new items in the narthex. Since her death Phebe Kirkham has taken on the task. Phebe has a Master's degree in Library Science and spent many years as a Reference Librarian.

Many of the new items in the Library have been donated by readers, book collectors, and library lovers in the congregation. While many donations have been added, others have been duplicates, outdated, or out of the Library scoop, which focuses on religion, particularly Methodist history, doctrine, and practice, books about the Bible including 2 sets of the Interpreter's Bible (one is "new"), inspirational biographies, and devotional literature.

We will have a basket in the narthex with some of these donated books. Many are devotional, some are duplicate copies of past study group titles. All will be of interest to someone. They are free for the taking and do not need to be returned.

The Library collection in the Friendship Room is open to all, at all times that the church is open. Please fill out the card in the back of the book, and drop it in the slot. Please return the item in 2 weeks. Thank you.



Arts and Crafts will meet on Wednesday October 16 at 1 pm in the All Purpose Room. Please note this is the third Wednesday and is a change to our schedule. We will be making washcloth teddy bears. No skill needed and everything provided. All are welcome to come.

Neighborhood Breakfast

Come join the fellowship



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.

Next month's breakfast will be Saturday, October 19th.

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.



Food Donations for the [Sterling House Food Pantry](#) are always being collected in the bins in the narthex. Visit their [Food Pantry Donation Page](#) for lists of needed items and a link to their Amazon Wish List.



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, October 16th.

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) if you are interested in volunteering.

The Lord's Kitchen

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



Christine McGregor, President, Mary Taylor, United Methodist Church, United Women in Faith



We will be having a special guest at our Oct. 8th, 7P.M. Meeting. Rachel Schippani, Coordinator of Community Education and Volunteer Programs at The Umbrella Center for Domestic Violence Services will be coming to talk to us. We would love to have you join us



New York Conference United Women in Faith

We believe love in action can change the world.

NEW YORK CONFERENCE UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

Joann McClam, New York Conference President

Annual Meeting

Hosted by the
Catskill-Hudson
District



**26 OCTOBER 2024
8 AM - 3 PM**

MEMORIAL

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

250 BRYANT AVE, WHITE PLAINS, NY 10605

PAYMENT INFO:

Pay via Zelle or Mail
Additional payment info on
the registration link below:

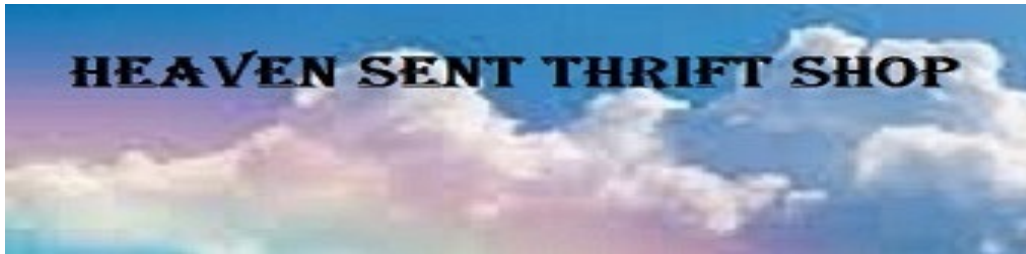
\$25 In-Person

\$20 Virtual

Registration Deadline : 10/12/24

Payment Due: 10/19/24

Registration Link: <https://ny-reg.brtaapp.com/2024UWFaithAnnualMeeting71>



The Thrift Shop is now OPEN!

Thrift Shop Hours

Thursday: 9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Friday: 9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Saturday 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.



There's no end to the wonderful finds that keep coming in (and going out) every week.

BLESSED ASSURANCE



ANGELS	ASSURANCE	BLESSED	BORN
BURST	DELIGHT	DESCENDING	DIVINE
ECHOES	FORETASTE	GLORY	GOODNESS
HEIR	JESUS	MERCY	PERFECT
PURCHASE	RAPTURE	SALVATION	SAVIOR
SIGHT	SONG	SPIRIT	STORY
SUBMISSION	VISIONS	WASHED	WHISPERS