

July Link

One of the best features of New England is our seasons; autumn when the trees are glorious with color, spring that is full of promise and growth, winter when the world is cold and clear and breathtakingly beautiful and glory of summer. For me, summer is the best of seasons. (even when the heat is oppressive) Summer is freedom, oceans, green all over and fresh fruits and vegetables, home grown and luscious. Each season is intricate in the cycle of life.

The Church has a cycle of seasons as well, beginning on the first Sunday of advent to the Easter season through Pentecost Sunday when the Holy Spirit descended to guide us, comfort us and always abide with us.

We are now in the Season of the spirit, so to speak. Jesus told us that he would send the Holy Spirit, the comforter, to guide us, to inform us and to teach us how to be followers of Christ. The Holy Spirit is given to you and me so that we can live a holy life, so that Jesus and his life can be alive and working in us. Like the growers of summer, it is time to reap what has been planted in us.

Before the disciples set out on their ministry to the world they were all filled with the Holy Spirit. Suddenly, those who were incapable, were inspired and able to live following Christ and preach to the world. What was once impossible began very possible, indeed for them and for us.

Living as Christ asked us to live, especially in a world of hubris, anger, and conflict may seem impossible, but with the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, we are each capable of things you may never have imagined. Never believe you are just one little person in a huge, complicated world. God has a purpose for your life.

In this season of the Spirit, we are invited to savor the gifts that have quietly grown within us and to share them generously, just as the earth gives forth its bounty in summer. It is a time to be attentive—to the gentle urgings of the Spirit, to the needs of those around us, and to the possibilities that open when we allow ourselves to be led by grace rather than fear. The transformation that took place in the hearts of the first disciples is not a distant miracle but a promise that echoes into our own lives. As we journey forward, let us trust that the same Spirit who empowered them continues to breathe new life into us, filling our days with purpose, courage, and hope.

In Christ,

Pastor Barbara

All are welcome!!!!



2025 Vacation Bible Camp

**August 11-15
9 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.**

**Memorial United Methodist Church
867 West Avon Rd. Avon, CT**

**Age 3 as of 8/11
(must be potty trained)
to those completing Grade 4**

\$25 per child; max. \$60 per family

***“The Lord your God is with you
wherever you go.” Joshua 1:9***

Register at: avonmumc.org/vbc



News from the Connecticut District

A MESSAGE FROM THE CONFERENCE LAY LEADER

GAIL DOUGLAS-BOYKIN

New York Annual Conference
The United Methodist Church

Dear Beloved Laity of the New York Conference,

“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.” — Romans 15:13 (NRSV)

As I reflect on my first year serving as your Conference Lay Leader, my heart is overflowing with gratitude. What a blessing it has been to meet so many of you during our Six Weeks of Prayer, at the Laity Session, and throughout our time together at Annual Conference. Each interaction—whether in person, online, or through a simple word of encouragement—has been a reminder of the beautiful, Spirit-filled community we are.

Thank you for your prayers. Thank you for your encouragement. And thank you for your kind words that lift and sustain me more than you know. It has been—and continues to be—my deep joy and privilege to serve as Lay Leader for the amazing laity of this Conference. Truly, *hope with joy* has been my theme this year, and you all have been part of that hope.

I’ve received such wonderful feedback about the 2025 Laity Session presentation, and I’m grateful it resonated with so many of you. As promised, the slide presentation is attached to this email for your reflection and sharing.

I also invite you to **Save the Date** for our **2025 Laity Convocation**, which will be held on **Saturday, November 8, 2025 at the Sonesta White Plains Downtown Hotel, [66 Hale Avenue, White Plains, NY.](#)**

We are thrilled to welcome **Dr. Ashley Boggan D., PhD**, General Secretary of the General Commission on Archives and History, as our guest speaker. You won’t want to miss it! Registration will open soon.

Until then, I pray that you continue to abound in hope, walk in joy, and stay connected to one another and to the One who calls and equips us all.

With deep appreciation and love,

Deaconess Gail Douglas-Boykin

Conference Lay Leader, New York Annual Conference

Blessing of the Animals



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⁰ And God said, "Let the water teem with living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the expanse of the sky." ²¹ So God created the great creatures of the sea and every living and moving thing with which the water teems, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. ²² God blessed them and said, "Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the water in the seas, and let the birds increase on the earth." ²²⁴ And God said, "Let the land produce living creatures according to their kinds: livestock, creatures that move along the ground, and wild animals, each according to its kind And God saw that it was good. Genesis 1

On August 10, we will celebrate our worship service outside in and around the memorial garden. It is a joy to honor God in the glory of the world God created.

We will also invite some very special guests: Our pets! Bring your animals to receive a blessing as we recognize the presence and role of animals in our daily lives.

Please bring a lawn chair and, if possible, an extra one for those who may not have one.

Please make certain that your pets, even if they are very well behaved, are on a lease or in a cage for the safety of all.





Anyone who is joining the 4th of July parade, we will meet here at the church at 9:30 AM and proceed to the Senior Center for the 10:00 AM line-up. The parade starts at 10:30 AM.



Food Bank Wishlist

Pickles, Relish, Ketchup, Hamburger and Hot Dog rolls.

No time to shop for the food bank?? Donations can be made here:
<https://www.paypal.com/ncp/payment/J36KTCUVNFYRY>



Gospels for July

July 6: Luke 10:1-11, 16-20

July 13: Luke 10:25-37

July 20: Luke 10:38-42

July 27: Luke 11:1-13

July Schedule

	<u>Cleaners</u>	<u>Lectors</u>	<u>Ushers</u>
July 6 July 13 July 20 July 27	Stephanie Stark Volunteers Needed Volunteers Needed Volunteers Needed	Kathy Loomis John Lundy Sandy Taylor Jennifer Lambour	Barbara Sherwin & Jennifer Lambour Darlene Slater & Jennifer Lambour Dawn Renfrew & Shelley Bailey Steve Bailey & Cliff Hoxie
	<u>Greeters</u>		<u>Coffee Hour</u>
July 6 July 13 July 20 July 27	John Lundy & Jay LaGrange John Lundy & Jay LaGrange John Lundy & Jay LaGrange John Lundy & Jay LaGrange		Dina & Misty Volunteers Needed Terri Collins Volunteers Needed
		<u>Counters</u>	
July 6 July 13 July 20 July 27		John Lundy & Wayne Roberts Wayne Roberts & Barbara Sherwin Barbara Sherwin & Barbara Bailey Jennifer Lambour & Steve Bailey	

As you can see by the calendar, we are in need of volunteers for Coffee Hour and Cleaning. Sign up sheets are in the Narthex on the Besse table.



July

<u>SUN.</u>	<u>MON.</u>	<u>TUES.</u>	<u>WED.</u>	<u>THUS.</u>	<u>FRI.</u>	<u>SAT.</u>
		1 10:00AM Prayer Group 8:00PM AA	2 4:00 – 6:00PM Food Bank	3 6:45PM AA	4	5
6 10:00AM Worship Service with Holy Communion	7 4:00 – 7:00PM Food Bank	8 10:00AM Prayer Group 7:00PM Admin./Finance Meeting 8:00PM AA	9 9:00AM -Noon Scrapbooking with Carolyn	10 2:00 – 4:00PM Food Bank 6:45PM AA	11	12
13 10:00AM Worship Service 11:15AM Trustees Meeting	14	15 10:00AM Prayer Group 8:00PM AA	16 4:00 – 6:00PM Food Bank	17 6:45PM AA	18	19
20 10:00AM Worship Service	21 4:00 – 7:00PM Food Bank	22 10:00AM Prayer Group 8:00PM AA	23 9:00AM -Noon Scrapbooking with Carolyn	24 2:00 – 4:00PM Food Bank 6:45PM AA	25	26
27 10:00AM Worship Service	28	29 10:00AM Prayer Group 8:00PM AA	30 4:00 – 6:00PM Food Bank	31		

July Announcements

The annual Christmas Fair is scheduled for early November, which seems very far away, but it takes time to create the many arts and crafts that we need to sell.

Many hands and many talents are needed. If you craft, knit, or do woodcraft, please begin to create your wares.



If you know of someone who is not getting the Link but would like to, please contact Re with their information and email address so they can be added to the list. If they don't have access to emails, just give us their mailing address and we will mail it out to them. We will also leave a few copies on the Besse table.

If you, or someone you know, is in the hospital in need of a visit please call either Pastor Barbara or the Church office to schedule a visit. Because of privacy laws, hospitals can no longer give out this information

Church office hours are Monday, Tuesday, and Friday from 9:00AM to Noon. If there is a Monday holiday, office hours for that week will be Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday from 9:00AM to Noon.

Pastor Barbara will be in the office Monday and Tuesday from 9:30AM to 1:00PM, or by appointment.

Church contact info:

Visit us online at: pleasantvalley-umc.com

Church Office: 860-379-2157

Church Kitchen and Food Bank: 860-379-0346

Church email address: pvumc181@gmail.com

Pastor Barbara's email: barb_drew@hotmail.com

Pastor Barbara's phone number: 203-623-3754