

## Joys and Concerns

our prayers are with:

- Steve and Adrienne Kern's friend, Steve, who has prostate cancer.
- Terri Hudak's friend, Leah, who recently lost her husband.
- Pat Tripp and Marilyn Fuller, who both lost friends this past week.
- Kitty Muro's grandson, who has returned to Yale-New Haven Hospital for internal bleeding.
- Giovanni Thomas and his family as they go through Giovanni's treatment for a cancerous mass behind his kidney.
- Janice Mayette, who recently had foot surgery.
- The family of John Farrell as they grieve his loss.
- Louise Fazio, whose kidney transplant stopped working.
- Robert Cerrato as he heals from leg and heart surgery.
- Jerry Jones as he recovers from an arm injury.
- Marlene Davis' son, who is undergoing chemotherapy.
- Kay Jones' niece, Sherri, whose cancer has returned.
- Jan and Gene Parsons' friend, Brad, whose cancer has returned.
- Sue Sterling's cousin, Mary, who has lung cancer
- Millie Ackerly's daughter, who is receiving cancer treatment.

### Meetings & Opportunities this week:

Mon., Sept. 1 at 10:30 am Tai Chi in Fellowship Hall  
 at 6:00 pm Open Door Band in Sanctuary  
 at 7:00 pm Wesley Group in Fellowship Hall  
 Tues., Sept. 2 at 7:00 pm Finance Committee in Fellowship Hall  
 Wed., Sept. 3 at 7:00 pm BSA Troop 31 Meeting in FH  
 Thurs., Sept 4 at 3:00 pm "Our Daily Bread" in Food Barn  
 at 5:45 pm Bells Practice in Sanctuary  
 Fri., Sept. 5 at 6:00 pm Girl Scout Troop 40236 in Fellowship Hall  
 Sat. Sept. 6 at 1:00 pm NMHS Swim Team Car Wash in parking lot  
 Sun., Sept. 7 at 8:30 am Not Just Eggs  
 at 10:00 am Combined Service in Sanctuary

Monday - Friday at noon AA meeting in Fellowship Hall

## Our Life in Community

For more information about any item listed below, please contact the Church Office at 860-354-4596 or office@newmilford.org

**Fall Fair**—Mike Martin has agreed to be our Chair of the Fall Fair, which is scheduled for Saturday, October 4. Join us for an organizational meeting on Sunday, September 7 at 2:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall to discuss what you can do to make this year's Fall Fair one of the most successful ever.

**Spaghetti Suppers**—Spaghetti Suppers are back! The first supper of the season will be Saturday, September 13th at 5:00 p.m. In preparation of the dinner, thin spaghetti donations are needed. The Spaghetti Supper committee has requested that store brand spaghetti NOT be purchased as it breaks down too quickly.

**Mozambique Orphanage Update**—Kay and Jerry Jones will be making a presentation from their May Trip to Mozambique on Sunday, September 14th at 2:00 p.m.

**Gas Card Collection** for the Singleton/Thomas family. At this time the Singleton/Thomas family is making two trips a week to Hartford Children's Hospital, and this will go on for several weeks. To help off-set the expense, gas cards are being collected to give to the family for the duration of Giovanni's treatments. If you are able to prayerfully donate, cards may be given to Brinna Kolitz or left in the "youth pastor" mailbox (top left mailbox) behind the sliding closet doors in the church narthex. For more information, contact Brinna at [youthminister@newmilfordumc.org](mailto:youthminister@newmilfordumc.org).

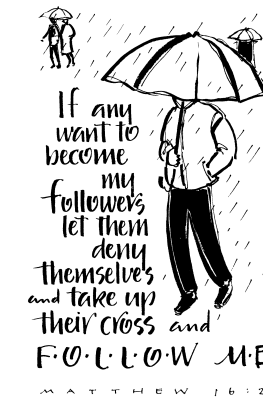
**Rally Sunday**- A joint service will be held on Sunday, September 7 at 10:00 a.m. for our Rally Sunday—when we welcome families back to church for the Sunday School year. We will be kicking off a new sermon series entitled "Why?," exploring topics such as "Why Faith?" "Why Prayer?" "Why Church?" and "Why Jesus?" Please be sure to join us!

**Something for Seniors**—Join us on September 10th for the first meeting of "Something for Seniors" - a new, monthly get together on the second Wednesday of every month at 2:00 p.m. for all seniors and Baby Boomers. A variety of topics will be discussed. For more information contact Bonnie Knapp at 860-355-0559.

**Worship Retreat**—A worship retreat will be held on Saturday, September 13th from 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon in Fellowship Hall. We'll be discussing the upcoming Advent season as well as plans for the coming year. Anyone who would like to join us is invited to attend.

**Youth Group** is planning to kick-off the 2014-2015 school year on Sunday, September 14th from 2:30-4:00 p.m. in the church conference room (education center). All youth 6th -12th grade are welcome to join us! We can get to know each other and start to plan our year! Any questions please contact Brinna Kolitz at [youthminister@newmilfordumc.org](mailto:youthminister@newmilfordumc.org).

**Our Daily Bread** is in need of pasta, canned meat or fish, fresh vegetables, and hot dogs (may be placed in the refrigerator in the Fellowship Hall kitchen clearly marked "Our Daily Bread."



The Service of Worship  
 New Milford United Methodist Church  
 68 Danbury Road  
 New Milford, CT 06776  
[www.newmilfordumc.org](http://www.newmilfordumc.org)  
 860-354-4596

Rev. Paul A. Fleck, Pastor  
 Sandy Lybe, Music Minister  
 Brinna Kolitz, Youth Leader  
 Emily Nixon, Open Door Band Leader

## Twelfth Sunday After Pentecost

**Blended Service**—Sunday, August 31, 2014 at 10:00 am

You are invited to worship with us in the quiet of prayer, in the joy of song, and in the desire to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. We especially welcome every visitor today. We are very glad you came. Part of our mission is to be a place for all people. All are welcome here! Whatever your gender, age, race, religious background, economic status, sexual orientation or condition of ableness, we greet you as a beloved child of God.

## ENTRANCE AND PRAISE

Prelude

Announcements

Hymn 451

"Be Thou My Vision"

SLANE

Call to Worship

Have you heard God's call in your life?

**We're not sure. Sometimes we think we know what God wants us to do; but at other times things are not very clear.**

Place your trust in the Lord. God is with you always.

**Lord, it is a scary thing to do--to just place our trust in you.**

God is with you. You will be safe.

**Thanks be to God who watches over us and guides us. Amen.**

## PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination

Seeking unity, we come to the scriptures.

**Open our hearts to hear and live your word.**

Acknowledging our discord, we come to the scriptures.

**Open our hearts to hear and live your word.**

Realigning our lives with God, we come to the scriptures.

**Open our hearts to hear and live your word.**

Old Testament

Exodus 3:1-15

Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. Then Moses said, 'I must turn aside and look at this great sight, and see why the bush

is not burned up.’ When the LORD saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, ‘Moses, Moses!’ And he said, ‘Here I am.’ Then he said, ‘Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground.’ He said further, ‘I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.’ And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

Then the LORD said, ‘I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings, and I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the country of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. The cry of the Israelites has now come to me; I have also seen how the Egyptians oppress them. So come, I will send you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt.’ But Moses said to God, ‘Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?’ He said, ‘I will be with you; and this shall be the sign for you that it is I who sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall worship God on this mountain.’

But Moses said to God, ‘If I come to the Israelites and say to them, “The God of your ancestors has sent me to you”, and they ask me, “What is his name?” what shall I say to them?’ God said to Moses, ‘I AM WHO I AM.’ He said further, ‘Thus you shall say to the Israelites, “I AM has sent me to you.” ’ God also said to Moses, ‘Thus you shall say to the Israelites, “The LORD, the God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you”:

This is my name for ever,  
and this my title for all generations.

### Gospel

Matthew 16:21-28

From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, ‘God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you.’ But he turned and said to Peter, ‘Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling-block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.’

Then Jesus told his disciples, ‘If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?’

‘For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.’

The Word of God for the People of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

### CHILDREN’S CHURCH

*The children are invited to come forward and sit at the chancel with the pastor as the congregation sings the first verse of Hymn 191, “Jesus Loves Me.”*

### Children’s Sermon

#### Prayer

#### The Lord’s Prayer

#### Invitation to the Offering

#### Offertory

*Please stand for the Doxology*

#### Presentation

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

#### Prayer of Dedication

*All Sit.*

#### Prayer

Surprising God,  
you have an uncomfortable habit  
of showing up where we least expect you:  
in a burning bush, in the face of an enemy,  
in a livestock feed trough, on a rough wooden cross.  
Turn our lives upside down with your radical love.  
Help us fully embrace your surprises, even as we revel in the joy  
of being fully embraced by your all-encompassing grace  
and mercy.  
We pray in the name of your most amazing surprise of all:  
your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

### RESPONSES

*Please stand if you are able to sing the song.*

#### Song 61

“Breathe”

#### Morning Prayer

*Joys and concerns are lifted before God and the congregation.*

Please end your prayer with: **This is my prayer,**

The congregation may respond: **This is our prayer.**

#### Pastoral Prayer

#### Prayer of Confession

**God of Mystery,  
we are constantly amazed by the depth and breadth of your love.  
Over and over again, you turn our expectations inside out  
and upside down.  
And still we don’t understand the radical nature of your grace.  
We play by our own rules of justice,  
even when it means excluding those  
we are called to love and defend.  
In our darkest moments,**

**we doubt if we are worthy of your trust.  
God, help us remember that you give us all the tools we need;  
that through the solid foundation of your love,  
we find the strength to follow your call  
as true disciples of Jesus Christ.  
Surprise us again, O God. Surprise us again.**

#### Words of Assurance

#### Passing the Peace

*The congregation joins in repeating Psalm 19:14*

Let the words of my mouth,  
**and the meditation of my heart,  
be acceptable in your sight, Lord,  
my strength and my redeemer.**

#### Sermon

“On Fire, But Not Consumed” REV. PAUL A. FLECK

#### Response to the Word

Moses was a murderer,  
**yet you turned him into a hero who led his people to freedom.**  
Moses couldn’t speak well,  
**yet you put words in his mouth  
to argue his people’s cause before Pharaoh.**  
We are taught to attack our enemies,  
**yet you teach us to bless those who persecute us.**  
We are overcome by evil,  
**yet you tell us to overcome evil with good.**  
Jesus is the savior of the world,  
**yet the crucifixion tells the story of a man  
who could not even save himself.**  
We desperately want to save our own lives.  
**God of Paradox, help us understand  
how to lose our lives in order to save them.**

*Please stand if you are able to sing the song.*

#### Song 30

“Miracle in My Heart”

### SENDING FORTH