

**Our Life in Community**

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

**Cantata**—TONIGHT at 5:00 p.m., please join us for a Christmas Cantata and potluck to follow. For more information on the potluck, contact Roxanne Martin at 860-355-4118 or mrm189@att.net.

**Love Baskets**—We will continue our annual tradition of preparing Love Baskets **Monday, December 8th at 9:30 a.m.** in the church kitchen. These baskets are given to the senior members of our church and to members who are experiencing health concerns. We will be preparing 20 baskets. In addition to the gift bag we also include fruit and homemade cookies. Please bring small gift items, snack foods and 4 dozen cookies. The cost of the fruit is graciously being covered by Spaghetti Supper Funds. All church members are invited to participate in the preparation of our Love Baskets. In case of bad weather and school is DELAYED we will meet at 11:30 a.m. instead. IF schools are CLOSED due to bad weather, we will meet on **Tuesday** at 9:30 a.m.

**Reflections from Beyond**—A book reading and conversation with C.J. Golden will be held on Wednesday, December 10th at 7:30 p.m. at the Temple Shalom, 122 Kent Road, New Milford. NMUMC is a co-sponsor of the event. Please note that "The Mix" is cancelled for this week so that you may attend this event.

**Christmas Tree Sales are underway!** A sign up form is available in the Narthex, or contact Dave Kullgren at 860-354-1102 or dkullgren1102@charter.net.

**The Giving Tree**—Gift cards from the Giving Tree are being collected to give to Peg Molina, Director of Social Services for the Town of New Milford, for distribution to members of our community at her discretion. The gift cards can be purchased through the Scholarship Committee which will benefit from this as well. Heather Morin will purchase the cards and deliver them to the church office; please stop at her table in the back of the church to purchase the cards. All gift cards should be in the church office by December 14<sup>th</sup>.

**Advent Giving Program**—The Missions Committee will be offering cards that you can give to your friends and family stating that you have given a monetary gift in their honor to a mission organization. The cards will not have a monetary amount attached to them; you may give any amount of money to one or more charities and receive as many cards as you like. Catalogs and order forms are also available on the church website—www.newmilfordumc.org. You may mail your order form to the church with payment and pick your cards up on Sundays between services. For more information, please contact Tracie Nixon at tracienix@gmail.com or 860-355-8628.

**Scholarship Committee** – The Scholarship Committee wants to remind everyone to get your holiday "Gift Card" order in early so you have them in time for the holidays. See or contact Heather Morin with any questions – 860-354-8406 or email at hmorin218@yahoo.com.

**Meetings & Opportunities this week:**

- Mon., Dec. 8 at 9:30 am Love Baskets in Kitchen  
at 10:30 am Tai Chi in Fellowship Hall  
at 6:00 pm Open Door Band Practice  
at 7:00 pm Wesley Group in Conference Room
- Tues., Dec. 9 at 4:00 pm Girl Scout 40213 in Fellowship Hall  
at 7:00 pm Girl Scout Leader's Meeting in Sanctuary  
at 7:00 pm Trustees in Fellowship Hall
- Wed., Dec. 10 at 2:00 pm Something for Seniors in Fellowship Hall  
at 7:00 pm Boy Scout Troop 31 in FH  
at 7:30 pm "Reflections from Beyond"
- Thurs., Dec. 11 at 3:00 "Our Daily Bread" Food Barn  
at 3:30 pm Confirmation Class in Library  
at 5:45 pm Bells Practice in Sanctuary  
at 6:00 pm Congregational Care in Conference Room  
at 7:00 pm Choir Practice in Sanctuary
- Sat., Dec. 13 at 5:00 pm Spaghetti Supper in Fellowship Hall
- Sun., Dec. 14 at 9:30 am Traditional Service in Sanctuary  
at 10:00 am Children's Sunday School  
at 10:30 am Adult Sunday School  
at 11:30 am Open Door Service in Sanctuary  
at 2:30 pm Youth Group

Monday - Friday at noon AA meeting in Fellowship Hall

**New Milford United Methodist Church  
Every Member A Disciple**

*Ushers: Art and Laurie Putnam, The Cannito Family  
Liturgist: Pete DelMastro*

**Notes**

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The Service of Worship  
New Milford United Methodist Church  
68 Danbury Road  
New Milford, CT 06776  
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

*Second Sunday in Advent*

*Sunday, December 7, 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. 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**

**Processional** "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence" PICARDY  
**Hymn #626**

**Greeting**

Leader: Days are getting darker.  
**People: Who will come to give us light?**  
Leader: The voice of the prophet cries in the wilderness of our lives!  
**People: Is this prophet the One who brings the light?**  
Leader: This prophet brings witness to the Light which is coming for all people.  
**People: Praise be to God who has heard our cries. Amen.**

**PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD**

**Prayer for Illumination**

We gather in preparation  
**for good news is about to be proclaimed.**  
We gather in expectation  
**for joy is about to break forth in our midst.**  
We gather in celebration  
**for we are those people who have said yes to the manger, yes to the one incarnate for others, yes to the wholeness of God.**  
**In preparation and expectation, let us celebrate your word.**

**Gospel Lesson**

*Page 34 in the New Testament in your pew Bible.*

**Mark 1:1-8**

The Word of God for the People of God.  
**Thanks be to God.**



Second  
Sunday  
in Advent



## 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 “Jesus Loves Me.”*

### Children’s Sermon

### Prayer

### The Lord’s Prayer

**Hymn 211** “O Come, O Come Emmanuel” VENIE EMMANUEL  
*Stanzas 1, 2 & 3*

### Lighting of the Advent Candle The Malinowski Family

We begin the season of Advent with expectant and believing hearts.

**We wait upon the Lord and place our hope in God’s word.**

During Advent we confront the darkness that so often exists around us.

**We wait upon the Lord and place our hope in God’s word.**

During Advent we confront the doubt that so often resides within us.

**We wait upon the Lord and place our hope in God’s word.**

During Advent we confront the division that so often occurs between us.

**We wait upon the Lord and place our hope in God’s word.**

This morning we light the **first candle** which reminds us of the ultimate hope that comes through our Savior’s birth. In a world where we often get overwhelmed by our circumstances, Advent comes as a gentle whisper offering us hope to heal the broken, befriend the lonely, and share the good news of the Gospel. This morning let us begin this Advent season with expectant and believing hearts.

[The Second Advent Candle is lit—The Candle of Joy]

**Hymn 211** “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” VENIE EMMANUEL  
*Stanza 4*

### INVITATION TO OFFERING

### Offering

### Offering Prayer

### Offertory

*Please stand for the Doxology*

### Presentation

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;**

**Praise God, all creatures here below;**

**Praise God above, ye heavenly host;**

**Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

*All Sit.*

### Prayer

Lord of Darkness and of Light, come to us this day in the midst of our growing darkness bringing the light of hope to our lives. Keep our hearts and minds alert to your presence. Give peace to our stressed spirits. In this season of Advent, prepare us to greet the One who will lift our burdens and change our lives forever. **Amen.**

### Morning Prayer

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

### Pastoral Prayer

### RESPONSES

*Stand or sit, as you feel called, to sing the song.*

**Song 31** “The Potter’s Hand”

Beautiful Lord, wonderful Savior  
I know for sure all of my days are held in your hand  
Crafted into Your perfect plan

You gently call me into Your presence  
Guiding me by Your Holy Spirit  
Teach me dear Lord  
To live all of my life  
Through Your eyes

I’m captured by Your Holy Calling  
Set me apart,  
I know your drawing  
Me to Yourself;  
Lead me, Lord, I pray

**[Chorus]**

***Take me, mold me, use me, fill me;***

***I give my life to the Potter’s hand***

***Call me, guide me, lead me, walk beside me;***

***I give my life to the Potter’s hand***

You gently call me into Your presence  
Guiding me by Your Holy Spirit  
Teach me dear Lord,  
To live all of my life  
Through Your Eyes

I’m captured by Your holy calling  
Set me apart,  
I know your drawing  
Me to Yourself;  
Lead me Lord, I pray

**[Chorus] twice**

### Prayer of Confession

**December is upon us, Lord, and we are on the "greased slide to Christmas". Time seems to get away from us and we get trapped in the buy-wrap-send syndrome. Lord, we confess that it is easy to get involved in all these opportunities and stresses that come our way. Forgive us when we put our faith on a back burner and focus instead on pressures in our lives. Help us to take time to see your beam of direction which shines in our path, leading us to peace and hope. Clear our spirits of the frustrations and anxieties of this season, so that the Light which you are sending into the world will truly shine in and through us to others. These things we pray in the name of Jesus, our Hope and our Light. Amen.**

### Words of Assurance

### Passing the Peace

*Stand or sit, as you feel called, to sing the song.*

### Song 42

“Hallelujah, Your Love Is Amazing”

**[Chorus]**

***Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah***

***Your love makes me sing.***

***Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah***

***Your love makes me sing.***

Your love is amazing, steady and unchanging.  
Your love is a mountain firm beneath my feet.  
Your love is a myst’ry how You gently lift me.  
When I am surrounded Your love carries me.

**[Chorus]**

Your love is surprising, I can feel it rising  
All the joy that’s growing deep inside of me.  
Every time I see You all your goodness shines through  
I can feel this God song rising up in me.

**[Chorus]**

Your love is amazing, steady and unchanging  
Your love is a mountain firm beneath my feet  
Your love is a mys’ry how You gently lift me.  
When I am discouraged Your love carries me.

**[Chorus] twice**

**HALLELUJAH!**

### Sermon

“Waiting for New Life”

Rev. Paul A. Fleck

*Please stand, if you are able, to sing the hymn.*

### Hymn 202

“People, Look East”

### SENDING FORTH

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### JOYS AND CONCERNS

*Our prayers are with:*

- Kimber’s friend, Linda, who has health issues which postponed her surgery.
- Roberta Buddle’s niece, Cindy, who is undergoing chemotherapy.
- Roberta Buddle’s niece, Wendy (Cindy’s sister), who had a double mastectomy.
- Dorothy O’Rourke whose cancer has returned.
- Sue Sterling’s boss’ son, Scott, who has brain cancer.
- Anne Meehan’s nephew, Scott, who had surgery for a benign brain tumor.
- Glenn Knapp, who fell and broke his hip, and is recovering in Village Crest.
- Marlene Davis’ sister in California who had emergency surgery.
- Sue Perry, who is still recovering from ankle surgery and is receiving excellent care from Dean.
- Roseanne, Sarah Taranto’s Mother-in-law, who is having heart and breathing problems.
- Angie Chastain’s father, Jack, who has been diagnosed with colon cancer.
- Giovanni Thomas’ as he continues treatment.
- Laurel Partrick’s cousin, Cynthia, is facing her third recurrence of cancer.
- Emily Nixon’s cousin, who has been diagnosed with cancer.
- Steve and Adrienne Kern’s friend, Steve, who has prostate cancer.
- 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.