

Spaghetti Supper will be serving on Saturday, January 11 from 5:00 - 7:00 pm. Please join us for spaghetti with homemade meat sauce, (vegetarian or butter available upon request) plus salads, homemade desserts, and soft drink. For more information, please contact the church office at 860-354-4596.

2014 Offering Envelopes are available in the Narthex. If you do not have envelopes and would like them, please contact the church office at office@newmilfordumc.org or 860-354-4596.

Cancellations and changes to church services and events will be posted on WFSB (CBS Channel 3), WTNH (ABC Channel 8), on our website www.newmilfordumc.org, and on the church phone system.

Meetings & Opportunities this week:

Mon., Jan. 6 at 10:30 am Tai Chi in Fellowship Hall
 at 6:00 pm Open Door Band Practice
 at 6:00 pm Girl Scout Troop 40208 in FH
 at 7:00 pm Wesley Group in CR

Tues., Jan. 7 at 7:00 pm Finance Committee in Fellowship Hall

Wed., Jan. 8 at 5:45 pm Worship Committee Meeting
 at 7:00 pm Evangelism in Conference Room
 at 7:00 pm Boy Scout Troop 31 in Fellowship Hall

Thurs., Jan. 9 at 3:00 pm "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 Conf. Room
 at 7:00 pm Choir Practice in Sanctuary
 at 7:00 pm Ed Board in Fellowship Hall

Fri., Jan. 10 at 6:00 pm Girl Scout Troop 40236 in FH

Sat., Jan. 11 at 5:00 pm Spaghetti Supper in Fellowship Hall

Sun., Jan. 12 at 9:30 am Traditional Worship (Sanctuary)
 at 10:00 am Sunday School
 at 10:45 am Children's Choir
 at 11:30 am Contemporary Worship (Sanctuary)
 at 2:30 pm Youth Group
 at 6:00 pm Girl Scout Troop 40235 in FH

Monday - Friday at noon AA meeting in Fellowship Hall

New Milford United Methodist Church
Every Member A Disciple



The Open Door
Contemporary Worship

11:30 am

...in a religion born in a barn,
 an open door goes without saying

song 28 "we've come to praise him"
 song 17 "God is good"
 welcome & announcements

song 60 "unashamed love"
 song 21 "wash over me"

passing the peace

gospel lesson isaiah 60:1-6
page 690 in the old testament in the pew bible

gospel lesson matthew 2:1-12
page 2 in the new testament in the pew bible

the work of God for the people of God.
thanks be to God.

presentation of the offerings

children's message

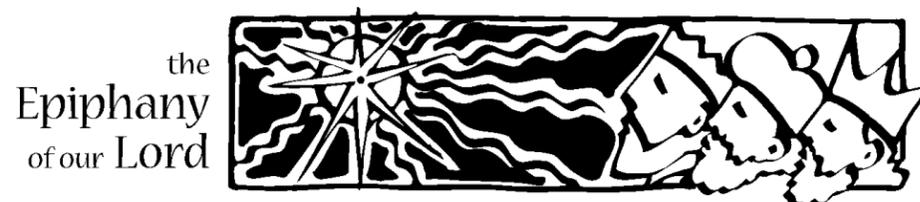
message "claim the name: follow the star" rev paul fleck

joys & concerns

song 13 "above all"

song 9 "victory chant"

sending forth



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

Epiphany Sunday
Sunday, January 5, 2014 at 9:30 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 "We Three Kings" **KINGS OF ORIENT**
Hymn #254

Call to Worship

O Star-flinging God, whose light dances across eternity,
 Dazzle us into your presence this new year.
Open our hearts to the mystery of your love.
 Stop us often, we pray
 With news that is good, with hope that holds,
 With truth that transforms
 With a Word that leads us along this trail we're on.
May the word of your grace guide our steps
Like the sun by day and the north star by night
As we travel into the gift of a new year. Amen.

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."

Prayer for Illumination

Radiant Morning Star,
You are both guidance and mystery.
Visit our rest with disturbing dreams,
And our journeys with strange companions.
Grace us with the hospitality to open our hearts and homes
To visitors filled with unfamiliar wisdom
Bearing profound and unusual gifts. Amen.

Old Testament Lesson **Isaiah 60:1-6**
Page 690 in the Old Testament in your pew Bible.

Gospel Lesson **Matthew 2:1-12**
Page 2 in the New Testament in your pew Bible.

The Word of God for the People of God.

Thanks be to God.

Children’s Sermon

Prayer

The Lord’s Prayer

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever.
Amen.**

INVITATION TO OFFERING

Offering

The children are invited to give their offering as they go out to Sunday School.

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.**

Offering Prayer

All Sit.

Anthem

Amy Lybe

Prayer

It’s always been about the light with you, hasn’t it Jesus?
Magi, braving distance and desert to find you,
And bewildered shepherds, compelled by an angel’s invitation,
Allowed light to be their guide.
And it is still the light that calls us to you;
The light of beauty that whispers its truth
In surprising ways and places;
The light of compassion that kneels,
And washes road-soiled, life-battered feet;
The light of joy that glows
Even in the shadows of grief and suffering;
The light that seeks to shine within us,
And through us into the dim corners of our world.
It’s always been about the light with you, Jesus;
And this Epiphany it’s about the light for us too.
By the Light of your justice and peace,
Please lead us, now and always, in the paths of your radiant love.
Amen.

Morning Prayer

Joys and concerns are lifted before God and the congregation.

RESPONSES

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

Hymn 3051 (W&S) “A Star Shone Bright” O WALY WALY

Prayer of Confession

**Ever-patient God, we are a people who live in thick darkness.
We stumble around bombarded by news of war and poverty,
famine and genocide, injustice and oppression.
The maelstrom of things and issues and people of the dark,
can overwhelm and paralyze us.
Help us be people of the light,
shining your light of righteousness, peace, and joy
into all the dark places of our lives and world.
Unlock the mystery and glory of the babe born in Bethlehem.
Turn our aimless wanderings into a journey of purpose
guided by your star.
Let the light break into our lives and our world,
and transform us into people of the light.**

Please offer silent prayers of confession.

Words of Assurance

As certain as the dawn follows the night,
so is the promise of God's forgiveness
and love for us all.
Arise and Shine.
Follow the star.
Find the light of the world born in Bethlehem
and be transformed from darkness into light.

Passing the Peace

Lift your eyes and look around.
The light of the babe of Bethlehem
shines from the face of each one here.
Let us now greet that light,
rejoice that we are here together,
and pass the peace of Christ,
our joy and our hope.

During Passing the Peace we ask, during cold and flu season, that you greet your neighbor verbally.

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 “Claim the Name: Star Prayers” Rev. Paul A. Fleck

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

Hymn 2095 (TFWS) “Star-Child” STAR CHILD

Star Child, earth Child, go between of God,
love Child, Christ Child, heaven’s lighting rod,
This year, this year, let the day arrive when
Christmas comes for everyone, everyone alive!

Street child, beat child, no place left to go,
hurt child, used child, no one wants to know,
This year, this year, let the day arrive when
Christmas comes for everyone, everyone alive!

Grown child, old child, memory full of years,
sad child, lost child, story told in tears,
This year, this year, let the day arrive when
Christmas comes for everyone, everyone alive!

Spared child, spoiled child, having wanting more,
wise child, faith child, knowing joy in store,
This year, this year, let the day arrive when
Christmas comes for everyone, everyone alive!

Hope-for-peace Child, God’s stupendous sign,
down-to-earth Child, Star of stars that shine,
This year, this year, let the day arrive when
Christmas comes for everyone, everyone alive!

SENDING FORTH

Arise, and go forth to shine for all the world to see.
**We go to spread the good news of light and love,
righteousness and justice.**
Go now and follow the star
that will guide you on your journey
this week, this year, and forever.
**As the Magi of old,
we go forth in trust and excitement,
transformed in the presence
of the child of light.**
May the blessing of the God of light
rest upon you and fill you with light.
Amen.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

congratulations to:

- Lu Vivona on becoming a great grandmother for the second time.

we are thankful for:

- Dave Kullgren and Ralph Williams who put in so much time selling Christmas trees. They are ambassadors of our church.

our prayers are with:

- Ellie Middleton as she prepares for knee replacement surgery on January 10th.
- The Birsen family as they grieve the passing of Ken.
- The Martin family on the loss of Roxanne’s aunt.
- Millie, who has been diagnosed with breast cancer.
- Nancy Mascio who is having trouble with her legs.

OUR LIFE IN COMMUNITY

The Congregational Care Committee - Congregational Care Team is Updating Our Birthday List: There will be a sheet at the entrance of the Church for those interested in receiving a card from the Church to help you celebrate “your special day.” For more information on getting involved with Congregational Care, contact Bonnie Knapp at 860-355-0559.