

placed, well-marked box will be in the lobby of the church with the list of needed supplies. You can also find the list in the February Church Newsletter and on the front page of the church website—  
www.newmilfordumc.org. Most items can be purchased at the Dollar store, Walmart, or a drug store. All items must be new. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact Tracie Nixon at 860-355-8628 or by email at tracienix@gmail.com.

**Easter Season Services** - Mark your calendar for remaining services throughout the Easter season. **Maundy Thursday** services will be held Thursday, April 2nd at 7:00 p.m.; **Good Friday** services will be held on the New Milford Green at 12:00 noon on Friday, April 3rd; and **Easter Sunday** Services will include a 6:45 a.m. sunrise service at the Chapel in the Pines followed by a continental breakfast at "Not Just Eggs" until 11:30 a.m. Traditional 9:30 a.m. service, followed by an Easter Egg Hunt and then our contemporary service at 11:30 a.m. We hope you can join us.

**Updates** - Please let the Church office know if there are any updates to our Joys and Concerns or if you have an announcement for the weekly bulletin. Please email them to office@newmilfordumc.org or call 860-354-4596.

**Meetings & Opportunities this week:**

**TODAY** at 9:30 am Traditional Worship in Sanctuary  
at 10:00 am Children's Sunday School  
at 10:30 am Adult Sunday School  
at 11:30 am Contemporary Worship in Sanctuary  
**Mon., Mar. 23** at 10:30 am Tai Chi in Fellowship Hall  
at 6:00 pm Open Door Band Practice in Sanctuary  
at 7:00 pm Wesley Group in Fellowship Hall  
**Tues., Mar. 24** at 4:00 pm Girl Scouts 40213 in Fellowship Hall  
at 7:00 pm Church Council in Fellowship Hall  
**Wed., Mar. 25** at 7:00 pm Lenten Book Study in Sanctuary  
at 7:00 pm Boy Scout Troop 31 in Fellowship Hall  
**Thurs, Mar. 26** at 3:00 pm "Our Daily Bread" in Food  
at 3:30 pm Confirmation in Library  
at 5:45 pm Bells Practice in Sanctuary  
at 7:00 pm Choir Practice in Sanctuary  
**Fri., Mar. 27** at 3:30 pm Girl Scout Troop 40464 in FH  
**Sat., Mar. 28** at 9:00 am Vendor Fair in Fellowship Hall  
at 7:00 pm Family Game Night in Fellowship Hall  
**Sun., Mar. 29** at 9:30 am Traditional Worship Service  
at 10:00 am Children's Sunday School  
at 10:30 am Adult Sunday School  
at 11:30 am Contemporary Worship Service  
at 1:30 pm Missions in Fellowship Hall  
at 2:30 pm Youth Group in Classroom

AA meetings in Fellowship Hall

Monday - Friday at noon and Saturday at 9:30 p.m.

To view the most recent calendar, visit our website—  
www.newmilfordumc.org/calendar.html



**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 69 "here i am to worship"

welcome & announcements

passing the peace

song 66 "you are my all in all"

contemplative moment

song 15 "your unfailing love"

**new testament lesson** hebrews 5:5-10  
page 220 in the new testament in your pew Bible.

**gospel lesson** john 12:20-33  
page 106 in the new testament in your pew Bible.  
the word of God for the people of God.  
**thanks be to God.**

presentation of the offerings

children's message

message "the way of the cross" paul a. fleck

joys & concerns

song 82 "i will follow"  
song 17 "God is good all the time"

sending forth

**9:30 a.m. Ushers** — Dave Kullgren and Pete DelMastro  
**Liturgist**—Larry Tripp  
**11:30 a.m. Usher** —Marilyn Fuller



**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

*Fifth Sunday in Lent*

*Sunday, March 22, 2015 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** "I Want a Principle Within" GERALD  
**Hymn #410**

**Call to Worship**

Leader: This is the fifth step on our Lenten journey, the step of sacrifice.

**People: Be with us, Lord, as we take this step.**

Leader: This requires the willingness to give all of your life to the Lord.

**People: Be with us, Lord, as we commit our lives to you.**

Leader: Come, let us worship and offer our voices of praise to God.

**People: Let us open our hearts and spirits to God this day.  
Amen.**

**Prayer for Illumination**

We come broken.

**This is a story of hope.**

We come fearful.

**This is a story of peace.**

We come cynical.

**This is a story of liberation.**

We come empty.

**Listen for the story of life.**

**Old Testament Lesson** Jeremiah 31:31-34  
Page 734 in the Old Testament in your pew Bible.

**New Testament Lesson** Hebrews 5:5-10  
Page 220 in the New Testament in your pew Bible.

Please stand as you are able for the Gospel readings.

**Gospel Lesson**

Page 106 in the New Testament in your pew Bible.

John 12:20-33

**peace and mercy you have given to us through Jesus Christ may be offered to others through our own witness to your healing mercy. In Jesus' Name, we pray. Amen.**

**Words of Assurance**

**Passing the Peace**

*During Passing of 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** "The Way of the Cross" Paul A. Fleck

**Reader's Theater**

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

**Hymn #2129 (TFWS)** "I Have Decided to Follow Jesus" ASSAM

**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**

**The Lord's Prayer**

**OFFERING**

**Invitation to Offering**

**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** "Create in Me a Clean Heart" SHERMAN

*The children are invited to go out to Sunday School after the Anthem.*

**Prayer**

Lord, be with us this day as we commit ourselves to being your disciples. Help us to face the future unafraid, trusting in your loving care and presence with us. We pray this in Jesus' name. Amen.

**RESPONSES**

*Please stand as you are able for the hymn.*

**Hymn #159** "Life High the Cross" CRUCIFER

**Morning Prayer**

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

**Pastoral Prayer**

**Prayer of Confession**

**Compassionate Lord, forgive us when we falter on this Lenten pathway; when the road ahead seems too uncertain and we are afraid. We admit that following Jesus is not an easy task. Jesus requires us to be willing to make the ultimate commitment of our whole lives and we hesitate and hold back. Draw us back to you, Lord. Give us confidence and courage to face the future with hope. Let us place our trust in you that the message of**

**SENDING FORTH**

**JOYS AND CONCERNS**

*we are thankful:*

- Roberta Buddle's niece, Cindy, who has completed her chemotherapy treatment.

*our prayers are with:*

- Roberta Buddle's niece, Wendy (Cindy's sister), who is undergoing chemotherapy for breast cancer.
- Tom and Ann Tibbatts, on the sudden passing of Ann's brother, Richard passed away suddenly.
- Diane Jones, a relative Linda and Alex Slater, who had a large tumor removed from her bladder and will be undergoing chemotherapy.
- Rob, Traci Poeti's brother, who has a muscular disorder.

- Michael Dion, who is in the hospital.
- Alexis, Chris Martirano's niece, who is going through chemotherapy.
- Chris Martirano's father-in-law, who is having open heart surgery.
- Bonnie Knapp's sister-in-law, Linda, who is experiencing kidney problems.
- Terri Hudak's cousin, Julie Spence in Virginia, who is battling cancer.
- Terri Hudak's aunt in California who has been diagnosed with breast cancer.
- Jeanne Johnson, friend of Laurel Partrick, who has been diagnosed with liver cancer.
- Steve Bowers, who is now on dialysis and has been added to the transplant list.
- Anne Meehan's nephew, Scott, whose brain tumor was found to be malignant, but treatable.
- Laurel Partrick's cousin, Cynthia, is facing her third recurrence of cancer.
- Emily Nixon's cousin, who has been diagnosed with cancer.
- Marlene Davis' son, who is undergoing chemotherapy.
- Kay Jones' niece, Sherri, whose cancer has returned.
- Sue Sterling's cousin, Mary, who has lung cancer.

**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

**Fellowship Hour**—Please join us between services for Fellowship Hour in Fellowship Hall. All are invited!

**Egg Fillers** are needed by the Youth Group for the Annual Easter Egg Hunt. Donations can include wrapped candy, small toys, stickers, trinkets, etc. to put in the eggs. The youth group will be filling eggs on the afternoon of Sunday, March 31st. Please drop all donations in the marked box in the Narthnax.

**Lenten Study Book: Renegade Gospel** -- Learn what it means to not just believe in Jesus but truly follow him. Join the "Off the Track" Sunday School class at 10:30 a.m. throughout Lent as they engage in this challenging study.

**Lenten Book Study: Renegade Gospel with Pastor Paul**—We are continuing our Book Study discussing *Renegade Gospel* every Wednesday during Lent at 7:00 p.m. in the Conference Room.

**Game Night**—Saturday, March 28th at 7:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. We will have an Egg Dying station set up to color eggs. Bring your own pre-boiled eggs.

**Lenten All-Church Mission Project**- The Mission Committee is sponsoring our 2nd annual All-Church Lenten Mission project to put together Health Kits to be used by UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief). Everyone is invited to assemble kits next Sunday, March 29 at 1:30 p.m. and we will take donations up to that day. A well-