

Charge Conference - We will have a Charge Conference on May 26, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. during our regularly scheduled Church Council meeting. There will be two orders of business: (1) the election of Pam Butler as a Trustee in the Class of 2017, and (2) the acceptance of a redesignated bequest from Art Carlson.

Scholarships—Faye and Art Carlson Scholarship applications are available in the Lobby and on the Church website—www.newmilfordumc.org. Scholarship applicants must be members of NMUMC. Scholarship applications are due no later than May 24, 2015. Scholarships will be awarded on June 14th, 2015 and recipients must be present at either the 9:30 a.m. Traditional Service or the 11:30 a.m. Open Door Service to accept.

Gift Cards—If you'd like to support the scholarship fund, don't forget to place your 'Gift Cards' order. Order forms are available on the shelves underneath the bulletin board outside the kitchenette. You may also contact Heather Morin with any questions h-860-354-8406; c-203-770-5782; e-hmorin218@yahoo.com.

The Methodist Movers Relay for Life Team is looking for members! The event is June 27 - 28th, but the Team is in need of registrations as soon as possible so planning can begin for the event weekend. Funds raised by anyone helping out on any fundraiser will be applied towards your required amount to earn a T-shirt. Help with future fund-raising, decorations, team ideas, thoughts and ideas are very much welcomed. Please contact Team Captain Linda Slater at 860-354-6180 or lslater0256@yahoo.com for more information.

Meetings & Opportunities this week:

TODAY Blood Pressure Checks by Parish Nurses
at 8:30 am "Not Just Eggs" in Fellowship Hall
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
at 6:00 pm Girl Scout 40235 in Fellowship Hall

Mon., May 4 at 10:30 am Tai Chi in Fellowship Hall
at 4:00 pm Daisy Troop 40215 in Fellowship Hall
at 6:00 pm Open Door Band Practice in Sanctuary
at 7:00 pm Wesley Group in Fellowship Hall

Tues., May 5 at 7:00 pm Finance Committee in Fellowship Hall

Wed., May 6 at 2:30 pm Litchfield Hills in Kitchen and Fellowship Hall
at 6:45 pm Scripture at the Tripp's
at 7:00 pm Boy Scout Troop 31 in Fellowship Hall

Thurs., May 7 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., May 8 at 9:00 am Litchfield Hills in Kitchen and Fellowship Hall
at 6:00 pm Girl Scout Troop 40236 in Fellowship Hall

Sat., May 9 at 8:00 am Trustee Sanctuary Work Day
at 9:00 am Vacation Bible School Training in FH
at 5:00 pm Spaghetti Supper in Fellowship Hall

Sun., May 10 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

*AA meetings in Fellowship Hall
Monday - Friday at noon and Saturday at 9:30 p.m.*



**The Open Door
Contemporary Worship
11:30 am**

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

song "we've come to praise him"
song "with all faith"

welcome & announcements

passing the peace

song "breathe"

contemplative moment

song "he knows my name"

gospel lesson matthew 13:45-46

page 15 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

sermon "the pearl of great price" rev. paul a. fleck

joys & concerns

communion

song "hosanna"

song "all about you"

sending forth

NEW MILFORD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

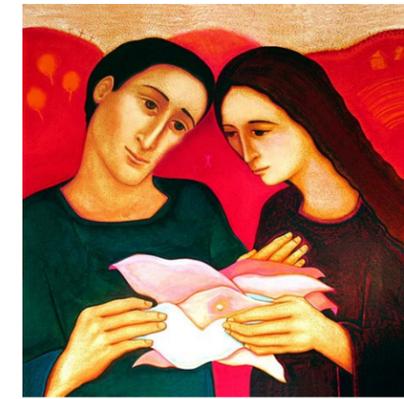
"Every Member a Disciple"

Ushers— 9:30 a.m. Gene and Jan Parsons

11:30 a.m.—Marilyn Fuller

Liturgist—9:30 a.m.—Victor Bull

11:30 a.m.—Martha McMahon



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

5th Sunday of Easter - "The Pearl of Great Price"

Sunday, May 3, 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 "Be Thou My Vision" SLANE
Hymn #451

Call to Worship

Leader: From the mustard seed a great and mighty shrub emerges.

People: Good things can come from something that seemed so insignificant!

Leader: The tiny pearl is produced from a single grain of sand.

People: We can be those people who bring hope and peace to God's world.

Leader: Come, let us praise the God of great and mighty wonders.

People: Let our spirits soar in gratitude for the opportunities God gives us to serve. Amen.

All Sit.

Prayer for Illumination

Tell me the stories of Jesus I love hear;

Things I would ask him to tell me if He were here:

Scenes by the wayside, tales of the sea,

Stories of Jesus, tell them to me.

Please stand as you are able for the reading of the Gospel.

First Gospel Lesson Matthew 13:45-46

Page 15 in the New Testament of your pew Bible.

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

All Sit.

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.

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

Anthem "The Lord's Prayer" MILLER
Chancel Choir

Prayer

Lord, you place before us the image of the small--the pearl of great price--and remind us that we, though we think of ourselves as small, are not insignificant in your kingdom. Open our hearts and our spirits to you in thankful remembrance of the ways in which we can serve you throughout all our lives. **Amen.**

RESPONSES

Please stand as you are able for the singing of hymn.

Hymn 87 "What Gift Can We Bring" ANNIVERSARY SONG

Morning Prayer

Joys and concerns are lifted before God and the congregation.

Pastoral Prayer

Prayer of Confession

Lord, we like BIG things. We have focused on big cars, big houses, big bank accounts, big, big, big! And you must be disappointed in us when we forget that from even the smallest thing something mighty can happen. Today the scriptures remind us of the smallness of the pearl of great price. Each of these things grew into something that offered shelter, peace, and hope, which became the treasures of compassion. Take away our need for the BIG possessions. Open our hearts to receive your word of love and healing, and let our spirits be ready to grow for you. Forgive our stubborn resistance to your faithful presence. For all things will work for the good for those who love God and are called according to God's purpose. Amen.

Words of Assurance

Passing the Peace

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

See Insert

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 Pearl of Great Price" Rev. Paul A. Fleck

Hymn 606 "Come, Let Us Use the Grace Divine" KINGSFOLD

SENDING FORTH

JOYS AND CONCERNS

we are thankful:

- Jean Lord's family and Tom and Ann Tibbatt's grandson are all safe after the earthquake in Nepal.

our prayers are with:

- The people of Nepal.
- Rich Baur's family on the loss of his brother-in-law.
- Edna, Roberta Buddle's sister-in-law who had a stroke.
- Sandy Lybe's co-worker whose mother is dying.
- Lisa Best's family, on the passing of her niece, Phoebe.
- Juliette Diamond, daughter of Emily Nixon, who is experiencing health issues.
- Carolyn Dion who is scheduled for surgery on May 20th.
- Fred, son of Andy and Janet Schnitzler, who had heart surgery and is recovering well.
- Roberta Buddle's niece, Wendy, who is undergoing chemotherapy for breast cancer.
- Rob, Traci Poeti's brother, who has a muscular disorder.
- Alexis, Chris Martirano's niece, who is going through chemotherapy.
- 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.
- 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!

Mother's/Father's Day Cards—Since 1989, NMUMC has offered the opportunity to purchase Mother's and Father's Day cards through the tools and blankets program of church world service. Through the sale of these cards NMUMC has contributed over \$6,500 to date toward the purchase of tool and blanket supplies for people in developing countries. Mother's Day Cards will be on sale TODAY and May 10th. Father's Day Cards on sale June 7, 14 and 21st. If you have questions, please contact Bonnie Knapp at (860) 355-0559.

Vacation Bible School Training—There will be a Vacation Bible School training program at our church on Saturday, May 9, from 10:00am to 12:00 noon. We are very fortunate to have this valuable opportunity for us to get fresh new ideas, and perhaps, some teaching materials for this year's VBS. The theme for this year is G Force. If you're interested in being a part of VBS this summer, I hope you'll try to attend. Questions may be directed to Nancy Mascio at 860-354-2028.

Mother's Day Sunday School—in order to have adequate supplies for Sunday school on Mother's Day, May 10th, please let us know if your child will be attending by calling either Martha (203-788-4322) or Pam (860-354-0650) or by emailing the Church Office at office@newmilfordumc.org. Thank you in advance.

Special offering on May 10 for Pastor's Discretionary Account- Pastor Paul is making an appeal to the congregation on May 10 for a special offering to support the Pastor's Discretionary Account. These funds will go to help defray expenses associated with the homelessness awareness breakfast on June 27, assist with Carolina Bortolletto's medical expenses, and ensure that Pastor Alex has sufficient discretionary funds when he begins his tenure in July.

All Star Concert 2015 will be held on Friday, May 22 beginning at 6:30 pm at the Arion Singing Society, 411 Danbury Road (across from New Milford High School). **All proceeds of this concert will benefit the whole church through the general fund.** The evening will begin with a silent auction and refreshments and the bands will begin to play at 8:00 pm. The event promises to be a great time, highlighted by first-rate music for only \$12 per ticket, plus a cash refreshment and bar area. Members of: Higher & Higher, Tony T. Orchestra, City Express Band, Future Tense, Perfect timing Duo, Shoo Fly, Two Dollar Hat and the Open Door Band will be performing. To purchase tickets, send your check to the church address with your contact information and we will have your tickets at the will-call table at the event. You can also go to this website: www.showclix.com/event/all-starconcert where you can purchase tickets for a small fee. We are also looking for items for the silent auction so if you know a business that might be willing to donate an item or a service, please contact one of the members of the auction committee. Steve Kolitz at sbkolitz@sbcglobal.net or 203-417-9670, Tracie Nixon at tracienix@gmail.com or 203-994-7763 or Marlene Davis at mmdavis@sbcglobal.net or 203-417-4554. Information and links for the All-Star Concert can also be found on the church website - www.newmilfordumc.org.

Confirmation Sunday is Sunday, May 24th during a joint 10:00 a.m. service. There will be no Sunday School that day.