

Confirmation and Youth Group—Just a reminder there is no confirmation or youth group this week due to the Thanksgiving Holiday.

UMM Tree Unloading—The United Methodist Men will be unloading Christmas Trees on Saturday, November 29th at 8:00 a.m. Thanks to the awesome volunteer turn out last year, it approximately one hour to get everything unloaded and set-up. Many hands make light work, please plan to help!

Christmas Tree Sales will begin at 10:00 a.m. on November 29th. A sign up form is available in the Narthex, or contact Dave Kullgren at 860-354-1102 or dkullgren1102@charter.net.

NMUMC Blood Drive—NMUMC will be hosting our annual blood drive on Saturday, November 29th from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. We have room for 12 more donors. Donors will receive a receive a limited-edition Red Cross potholder stuffed with unique celebrity chef recipes, while supplies last. You can sign up to give online at www.redcrossblood.org or by calling 1-800-RED-CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

Charge Conference—Remember Charge Conference is Tuesday, December 2nd, at 7:30 p.m.

December 7—Joint Service—Mark your calendar for a 10:00 a.m. joint service on Sunday, December 7th. The morning will begin with a special “Not Just Eggs/Breakfast with Santa” at 8:30 a.m., featuring everyone's favorite guy in red. The Parish nurses will be offering free blood pressure checks throughout breakfast and during fellowship hour. Then, at 10:00 a.m. a joint worship service will be held in the Sanctuary. The day wraps up with the Christmas Cantata at 5:00 p.m. and a potluck supper immediately following (see below).

Cantata—Sunday, December 7th at 5:00 p.m. please join us for a Christmas Cantata and potluck supper to follow. Mark your calendar now and invite your friends for a great way to begin your celebration of Christ's birth! For more information on the potluck supper, contact Roxanne Martin at 860-355-4118 or mrm189@att.net.

Cantata Rehearsal Schedule for Children—The choir will be performing the Christmas story told through song. Tableaus will take place as the story unfolds. The children are invited to be a part of these tableaus in a variety of parts. There are no lines to be learned, no songs to be memorized. The children will pose in the “living nativity” as the story is sung. We will need at least 12 children for the various parts and will happily have places for all who want to join us. Anyone interested should contact Carol Muska at 860-355-1485 or by email at auli7@sbcglobal.

Poinsettia and/or Pew Candle Decoration order forms are available on the church website, and in the church lobby. Forms are due back by Sunday, December 7th.

The 2014 Advent Giving Program has begun. The program offers six different missions for which individuals can make monetary donations and receive gift cards to give to others in place of, or in addition to, the "usual" holiday gifts. Cards will be available between services through December 21. In addition, completed order forms may be mailed to the church office. Any questions? Please stop by the table in the entry on Sundays or call Tracie Nixon at 860-355-8628.

NM Shelter Opens Soon—The New Milford Homeless Shelter opens today for the winter season at St. Francis Church. Overnight volunteers (males and females) are needed throughout the season. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, or have been a volunteer and want to do so again, please contact Gerri Holland, Shelter Schedule Coordinator at 860-354-5917. If you have questions regarding the shelter, being trained as a volunteer, or volunteering please contact Rita Iverson at 860-355-1252. NMUMC will be providing volunteer coverage for the week of **January 11**.

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



Advent Worship Services and Special Events
December 7—Not Just Eggs/Breakfast with Santa—8:30 a.m.
Joint Worship Service—10:00 a.m.
Cantata—5:00 p.m., potluck supper immediately following
December 14—Traditional Service—9:30 a.m.
Contemporary Service—11:30 a.m.
December 21—Traditional Service—9:30 a.m.;
Contemporary Service—11:30 a.m.
Blue Christmas Service—5:30 p.m. light supper, 7:00 p.m. service
December 24—Christmas Eve Services—5:30, 7:30, and 9:30 p.m.
w/the 5:30 p.m. service being a Contemporary worship opportunity.



The Open Door Contemporary Worship 11:30 am

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

song 41 "come and see"
song 3 "with all faith"

welcome & announcements

song 65 "Jesus lover of my soul"

contemplative moment

passing the peace

song 85 "oceans (where feel may fall)"

gospel lesson luke 17:11-19
page 80 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

communion

message "thanks-living" rev. paul a. fleck

anthem "shackles"

joys & concerns

song 70 "amazing love"
song 4 "amen"

sending forth

9:30 a.m. Ushers — Pete and Nick DelMastro
9:30 a.m. Liturgist—Terri Hudak
11:30 a.m. Usher —Marilyn Fuller
11:30 a.m. Liturgist— Stephan Cannito



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

Last Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday, November 23rd, 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 "Lord, Whose Love Through BEACH SPRING
Hymn #581 Humble Service"

Call to Worship

Leader: Now is the time of harvest; the time when we gather in the bounty.

People: We bring before God our bountiful lives.

Leader: Come, offer your praise and thanksgiving to the Lord of the Harvest.

People: We offer our praise to God who blesses our lives with goodness.

Leader: Gather us in, Lord. Gather us in.

People: Let our praise and worship be a tribute to your greatness, O God. Amen.

Prayer for Illumination

**God, the more we know you, the more it is that joy dances in our souls.
So, as we open the pages of our family's history, show yourself in its words.
Whisper your love in our ears. Draw us into the embrace of your arms.
Let our hearts beat a little faster, as we hear the sound of your voice so near. Amen.**

Psalm

Psalm 65

Page 527 in the Old Testament in your pew Bible.

Please stand as you are able for the Gospel readings.

Gospel Lesson

Luke 17:11-19

Page 80 in the New Testament in 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.

Anthem “We Will Give Thanks” PATTERSON
The children are invited to go out to Sunday School after the Anthem.

Prayer

RESPONSES

Please stand as you are able for the hymn.
Hymn #434 “Cuando El Pobre” EL CAMINO
“When the Poor Ones”

Morning Prayer

Joys and concerns are lifted before God and the congregation.

Pastoral Prayer

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

Prayer of Confession

Since September, Lord, the malls, stores and media have blared the music of Christmas. Each call comes to us, inviting us to spend, hurry, plan, participate. It is easy to get caught up in the mood of the coming season. We confess that we, too, have gotten caught up in the secular "reason for the season" which is to buy and spend. Slow us down, Lord. On this day of Thanksgiving, let us put aside our rush to Christmas and offer our prayers of gratitude for your constant care. As the man who was healed of his leprosy returned to Jesus thanking him for the healing; so help us return to you with our songs and spirits of praise. You have blessed us with work to be done, harvests to be gathered in, and people with whom to share our bounty. We are called to look beyond our laden tables and filled cupboards to those for whom this time is just another day of hunger and loss. Help us to reach out to our friends and neighbors and to those whom we have called strangers. Remind us that the harvest is given to be shared and not hoarded. Open our hearts in actions of gratitude that we may truly offer our praise and thanksgiving to you. Amen.

Words of Assurance

Passing the Peace

Greet one another with the peace of Jesus Christ.

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing,

always and everywhere to give thanks to you,

Almighty God, creator of heaven and earth.

By your appointment the seasons come and go.

You bring forth bread from the earth and create the fruit of the vine.

You formed us in your image and made us stewards of your world.

Earth has yielded its treasure,

and from your hand we have received blessing on blessing.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven

we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna
in the highest.**

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ.

Though he was rich, yet for our sake he became poor.

When hungry and tempted, he refused to make bread for himself

that he might be the bread of life for others.

When the multitudes were hungry, he fed them.

He broke bread with the outcast but drove the greedy from the temple.

By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection

you gave birth to your Church,

delivered us from slavery to sin and death,

and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread,

gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and

said:

"Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you.

Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over he took the cup,

gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said:

"Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant,

poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.

Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,

we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving

as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us,

as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here,

and on these gifts of bread and wine.

Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ,

that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ,

one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world,

until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly

banquet.

Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church,

all honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and forever.

Amen.

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

“Thanks-Living”

Rev. Paul A. Fleck

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

Hymn #433

“All Who Love and Serve Your City”

CHARLESTOWN

SENDING FORTH

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 on Wednesday.
- 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.
- Terri Brown’s step-daughter and son for the Lord’s leading and wisdom in new decisions that need to be made.
- 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.
- Charlie Chapin, as he heals.
- 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.

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

Special Collection TODAY to Benefit Children in Liberia-Rev. Toby Gbeh of Liberia will be joining us TODAY for a special presentation regarding the Ebola epidemic in that country and the personal impact it has had on him, his friends, and his colleagues still there. Rev. Gbeh received his M.A. in Islam and Christian-Muslim Relations from Hartford Seminary, CT and has extensive pastoral and teaching experience in Liberia, Ghana and the U.S. Toby returned home to Liberia in 2006. He has served as President at the Liberia Baptist Theological Seminary in Paynesville and taught Islam and Church History. Rev. Gbeh organized an elementary school in the Seminary Community for children whose parents are not able to afford their education. "Uncle Toby" as he is called by the children at Quality Foundation is a father and grandfather. In addition to his Seminary responsibilities, Toby has been directly involved with the children and their parents. He returned to the U.S. in April, 2014. The special collection will benefit the elementary school and the children attending there, many of whom have lost parents in this epidemic.