

Meetings & Opportunities this week:
TODAY at 2:30 pm Youth Group in Fellowship Hall
Mon., Dec 1 at 10:30 am Tai Chi in Fellowship Hall
 at 6:00 pm Open Door Band in Sanctuary
 at 7:00 pm Wesley Group in Classroom
Tues., Dec. 2 at 7:30 pm Charge Conference in Fellowship Hall
Wed., Dec. 3 at 7:00 pm BSA Troop 31 Meeting in FH
Thurs., Dec. 4 at 3:00 pm "Our Daily Bread" in Food Barn
 at 3:30 pm Confirmation in Library
 at 5:45 pm Bells Practice in Sanctuary
 at 7:00 pm Choir Practice in Sanctuary
Fri., Dec. 5 at 3:00 pm Girl Scout Troop 40236 in Fellowship Hall
Sat., Dec. 6 at 10:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal in Sanctuary
 at 3:00 p.m. Boy Scout Troop 21 in Fellowship Hall
Sun., Dec. 7 at 8:30 am Not Just Eggs/Breakfast with Santa
 Parish Nurse Blood Pressure Check
 at 10:00 am Joint Worship Service
 at 2:30 pm Youth Group Fellowship Hall
 at 5:00 pm Cantata, potluck immediately following

Monday - Friday at noon AA meeting in Fellowship Hall

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 40 "open the door"
 song 36 "rise up and praise him"

welcome & announcements

song 72 emmanuel

lighting of the advent candle the kolitz family

song 72 emmanuel

song 67 "come to the river of life"

contemplative moment

passing the peace

song 60 "unashamed love"

old testament lesson isaiah 64:1-9
 page 694 in the new testament in your pew Bible.

gospel lesson mark 13:24-27
 page 50 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 "waiting for real change" rev. paul a. fleck

anthem "God shaped hole"

joys & concerns

song 30 "miracle in my heart"
 song 14 "sing for joy"

sending forth

9:30 a.m. Ushers — Heather and Elizabeth Morin
9:30 a.m. Liturgist—Martha McMahan
11:30 a.m. Ushers —Sue Sterling
11:30 a.m. Liturgist— Steve Kolitz



First Sunday in Advent

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

*First Sunday of Advent
 Sunday, November 30th, 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 "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" HYFRYDOL
Hymn #196

Call to Worship

Leader: The time of waiting and watching is here! Are you ready?
People: We are waiting for the Lord of peace to open our hearts.
 Leader: The Lord of Peace comes to you this day to free you from your sins.
People: We are ready to receive the precious blessings of God.
 Leader: Come, let us worship God who loves us dearly.
People: Let us praise God for God's blessings in our lives. Amen.

Prayer for Illumination

**Loving God,
 Who speaks to use through your Scriptures
 And in the collective wisdom
 Of your people throughout the ages:
 Help us to hear anew
 What you would speak to us this day.
 For your word is always fresh,
 A message of life and hope
 In the world that needs to know and heed your will.
 Through Christ the living Word
 And your Spirit of Illumination
 Who with You is the truth that sets us free. Amen.**

Old Testament Lesson Isaiah 64: 1-9
 Page 694 in the Old Testament in your pew Bible.

Please stand as you are able for the Gospel readings.
Gospel Lesson Mark 13:24-27
 Page 50 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 “Come From Heaven Above” SCHRAM
The children are invited to go out to Sunday School after the Anthem.

Prayer

Almighty God, as we begin this season of Advent remind us again that in the midst of our darkness you are bringing us peace, to calm our anxious spirits and hectic lives. Turn our hearts again toward you. Make us ready to receive your Son our Savior. Slow our pace, and give us the blessing of feeling your peace in our spirits. For we ask this in Jesus’ precious Name. Amen.

RESPONSES

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

Lighting of the Advent Candle The Kullgren Family

Voice 1: Blessed be the God of Israel, who has come to set us free.

Voice 2: All around the world there are wars and rumors of wars. Peace appears to be a distant dream.

Voice 3: Through the prophets of old, God promised peace.

Voice 1: Like the people of old, we too long for peace, not only as release from armed conflict, but as a way of living our lives freed from fears and anxiety.

Voice 2: Today, on this first Sunday of Advent, we light the candle of PEACE. May we find God’s peace in our hearts, and be bearers of God’s peace in our world.

Voice 3: God’s light of Peace will shine on us this day, to guide our feet into the ways of peace.

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

[The First Advent Candle is lighted - the Candle of Peace]

Please stand as you are able for the hymn.

Hymn #382 “Have Thine Own Way, Lord” ADELAIDE

Morning Prayer

Joys and concerns are lifted before God and the congregation.

Pastoral Prayer

Prayer of Confession

It’s starting already, Lord. It is only the first Sunday in Advent, and we are caught up in the pressures and stresses of the holiday season. Pursued by the temptation to spend our funds, our energy, our spirits, we feel that there is no peace or rest in the world. Lord of light and peace, shine on us this day. Forgive us when we have so easily succumbed to the anxieties and fears and temptations of the season. Slow us down. Calm our spirits. Give us an awareness that this is the season of waiting and of preparation. Pour peace into our lives and help us to be bearers of peace to others. For we ask this in Jesus’ precious Name. Amen.

Words of Assurance

Passing the Peace

Greet one another with the peace of Jesus Christ.

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 “Waiting for Real Change” Rev. Paul A. Fleck

Litany

Leader: There’s a special message for you today.

People: What is it?

Leader: It’s a word of peace, of God’s brilliant peace for your lives.

People: What is that?

Leader: It is an awareness of God’s loving presence in your lives in which your spirits are calmed and comforted, made ready to receive the Gift.

People: How can we find that peace?

Leader: Wait. Listen. Breathe deeply. God’s gift will come to you.

People: When is it coming to us?

Leader: You may not know the hour or minute, but you can be assured that God’s gift of God’s own self will be given for you.

People: What do we need to do?

Leader: Be ready. God’s promise of peace and hope are real and they are given especially for you. Do not fear. Do not be afraid. God is with us. Amen.

People: Amen.

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

Hymn #706 “Soon and Very Soon” VERY SOON

SENDING FORTH

Altar Flowers

The Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God and in memory of Art and Alice Smith by their son, Forrest Smith.

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.
- 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.

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

Charge Conference—Join us for our annual Charge Conference on Tuesday, December 2nd at 7:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall.

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.

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. (the day after the next Spaghetti Supper), 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.

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 were mailed to church members, but 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.