

We hope you will be able to join us on Wednesday for “The Mix” and that you will feel comfortable inviting others to join us as well. We trust it will be a rewarding experience for all of us.

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!

Cantata Rehearsal Schedule for Children—This year’s Cantata will include a performance by our children. Stay tuned for a letter that will come home with them from Sunday School on how your child can be involved.



**The Open Door
Contemporary Worship**

11:30 am

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

song 58 “come into this house”
song 11 “Lord, i lift your name on high”

welcome & announcements

moment of silence

passing the peace

song 49 “come ye sinners”
song 26 “power of your love”

gospel lesson matthew 25:1-13
page 28 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 “God’s Hands” david abernethy

anthem “you can’t always get what you want”

joys & concerns

communion

song 50 “green pastures”
song 55 “all about you”

sending forth

Twenty-Second
Sunday after
Pentecost



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

22nd Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday, November 9nd, 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 “Amazing Grace” AMAZING GRACE
Hymn #378

Call to Worship

The God of our ancestors has led us to this place.

We are witnesses.

We have sworn to teach God’s promises
to all generations.

We are witnesses.

The time is coming when Christ will come again in glory.

We are witnesses.

Let us tell the world of God’s faithful love.

We will worship and witness together!

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.

Psalm

Page 537 in the Old Testament in your pew Bible.

Psalm 78:1-7

Epistle

Page 204 in the New Testament in your pew Bible.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

Meetings & Opportunities this week:

TODAY at 2:30 pm Youth Group in Fellowship Hall
Mon., Nov. 10 at 10:30 am Tai Chi in Fellowship Hall
at 6:00 pm Open Door Band in Sanctuary
at 6:30 pm United Methodist Men in Fellowship Hall
Tues., Nov. 11 at 4:00 pm Girl Scouts 40213 in Fellowship Hall
at 7:00 pm Choir Practice in Sanctuary
at 7:00 pm Trustees in Fellowship Hall
Wed., Nov. 12 at 2:00 pm Something for Seniors in Fellowship Hall
at 5:30 pm Worship Committee in Fellowship Hall
at 7:00 pm BSA Troop 31 Meeting in FH
Thurs., Nov. 13 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 Ed Center Board in Fellowship Hall
Sat., Nov. 15 at 7:15 pm Family Fun Bowling—off-site
Sun., Nov. 16 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 “Open Door” Cont. Worship in Sanctuary
at 2:00 pm Nominations and Lay Leaders in FH
at 2:30 pm Youth Group Fellowship Hall

Monday - Friday at noon AA meeting in Fellowship Hall

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

Please stand as you are able for the Gospel readings.

Gospel Lesson

Matthew 25:1-13

Page 28 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

“Praise and Thanks to God”
Bell Choir

SCHEEL

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.

Prayer

Your love has brought us together, O Lord,
and it is your love that sustains us through each day.
We pray that you would keep us faithful.
Even as we watch for signs of your kingdom,
strengthen us to work with you to bring about, here and now,
your reign on earth.
Give us the courage to witness to your presence in the world,
today, tomorrow, and into the future.
We pray in the name of the One who comes,
Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

RESPONSES

Please stand as you are able for the hymn.

Hymn #364

“Because He Lives”

RESURRECTION

Morning Prayer

Joys and concerns are lifted before God and the congregation.

Pastoral Prayer

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

Prayer of Confession

**God of Mystery,
we want to stay awake
and be ready for your surprises,
but we are tired and overcome
with the usual routine.
We want to wait patiently**

**for the fulfillment of your kingdom,
but we are frustrated by our need
for immediate gratification.
We want to believe your promises from ancient days,
but we are overwhelmed with postmodern doubts.
Come to us again, O God.
Awaken us with your unexpected grace.
Shock us with your daring mercy.
Lift us up from lethargy
and set our feet on your path once more.
(Prayer continues in silence.)**

Words of Assurance

Passing the Peace

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.**

Please refer to the insert for the Communion Liturgy.

Message

“God’s Hands”

David Abernethy

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

Hymn #57

“O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing”

AZMON

SENDING FORTH

Go out to stay awake! Go out to keep alert and be ready!
**We do not know the day or the hour,
but we do know that God goes with us at all hours, on all days.**
Go with the love of God, the peace of Christ,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit.
We go to witness and serve! Amen.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

we are thankful:

- For our veterans who have served.
- For the \$5,000 grant that was received for expansion of Our Daily Bread from Union Savings Bank.
- For the \$2,000 grant that was received for Our Daily Bread from Walmart.

our prayers are with:

- 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.
- Linda, Kimber Malinowski’s friend, who will be having lung surgery this week.
- Marsha Sacca, who is recovering from bypass surgery and pneumonia.
- Sue Perry, who broke her ankle and is recovering from surgery.
- Bill Gardei, who is totally blind and suffers from Parkinson’s Disease. Bill is a former pastor of NMUMC.
- Alma Hough, that she will be relieved of her pain.
- Sue Sterling’s colleagues who have been diagnosed with cancer.
- Roberta Buddle’s niece, Cindy, will be undergoing chemotherapy for the next 6 months.
- Rich Baur, who is experiencing health issues.
- Giovanni Thomas’ as he continues treatment.
- John King, who is battling cancer.
- Two friends of Kimber Malinowski who are facing health issues.

- Charlie Chapin, as he heals.
- Laurel Partrick’s cousin, Cynthia, is facing her third recurrence of cancer.
- Mary Gunther, who had abdominal surgery.
- 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

first Stewardship Report—To date we have received 50 pledges totaling \$134,064.00. Pledges are still being accepted and may be turned in to the Church Office. Pledge forms are available in the Library.

A Call for Sunday School Teachers! Jesus said, “[l]et the little children come to me.” They’ve come to New Milford United Methodist Church, and our Sunday School is filled to overflowing! We’ve expanded our Sunday School to two classrooms. But this means we need more teachers to help us with the joyful work of teaching our youngsters the love of God. Will you join us? For more information contact the Church Office at 860-354-4596 or Martha McMahan at 860-354-5345.

Something for Seniors—Don’t forget our next “Something for Seniors” will be this Wednesday, November 12th at 2:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. We hope you can join us.

Special Collection Next Sunday to Benefit Children in Liberia—Rev. Toby Gbeh of Liberia will be joining us for a special presentation next Sunday, November 16th, 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.

Family Game Night—Join us on Saturday, November 22nd at 6:30 p.m. for a night of fellowship at our family game night! Please bring a finger food to share. The Martins will provide the beverages. Please RSVP to Roxanne Martin at 860-355-4118 by the 2nd of each month. Future family game nights will be held the fourth Saturday of the month in Fellowship Hall starting at 6:30pm. Hope to see you there!

“The Mix” - So often we are caught up in the hustle and bustle of our lives that we don’t take time for ourselves and time with God. Join us next Wednesday, November 12th at 7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary for just such a time.

The reflection on the Word will use an ancient practice that continues to have relevance in our lives today: A practice called *pneuma divina/lectio divina*. We will read through the scripture together once in a meditative state. Continuing to meditate on the scripture, we will then listen to it read once again and pick out words or phrases that particularly resonate with us. We will then listen to the scripture a third time, and determine how the scripture and those words or phrases are speaking to the circumstances of our lives today, what we are experiencing in our lives, or what we are going through. We will then share as we feel comfortable.