

Christmas in September? The choir has started rehearsing the Cantata for Christmas during the first half hour of their Thursday evening rehearsal starting at 7:00 p.m.. Anyone who would like to join them, please contact Sandy Lybe (the church organist) or stop by practice any Thursday evening.

The New Milford Homeless Shelter is once again seeking volunteers for the upcoming shelter season (November-April). If you are interested in becoming an overnight volunteer (or learning more about volunteering at the shelter) please contact Rita Iverson (860-355-1252). A training session is being planned for October and further details will be forthcoming.

NMUMC is once again supplying volunteers for the third full week of January 2015—the 18th-24th. If you are already a volunteer, we would like to have you sign up for an evening that week. You may contact the scheduling coordinator (Gerri Holland 860-354-5917) directly or contact Rita Iverson.

Gas Card Collection for the Singleton/Thomas family. At this time the Singleton/Thomas family is making a weekly trip to Hartford Children's Hospital, and this will go on for several weeks. To help off-set the expense, gas cards are being collected to give to the family for the duration of Giovanni's treatments. If you are able to prayerfully donate, cards may be given to Brinna Kolitz or left in the "youth pastor" mailbox (top left mailbox) behind the sliding closet doors in the church narthex. For more information, contact Brinna at youthminister@newmilfordumc.org.

Meetings & Opportunities this week:

Mon., Sept. 22 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 Fellowship Hall
 Tues., Sept. 23 at 4:00 pm Girl Scout Troop 40213 in Fellowship Hall
 at 7:00 pm Church Council in Fellowship Hall
 Wed., Sept. 24 at 7:00 pm BSA Troop 31 Meeting in FH
 at 7:00 pm lectio divina/pneuma divina in Conf. Room
 Thurs., Sept 25 at 3:00 pm "Our Daily Bread" in Food Barn
 at 5:45 pm Bells Practice in Sanctuary
 Fri., Sept. 26 at 6:00 pm Girl Scout Troop 40236 in Fellowship Hall
 Sat. Sept. 27 Troop 31 Pasta Dinner in Fellowship Hall
 Sun., Sept. 28 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 2:30 pm Youth Group in Conference Room

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 47

"we give you glory"

song 3

"with all faith"

welcome & announcements

moment of silence

passing the peace

song 70

"amazing love"

song 87

"if we are the body"

new testament lesson

acts 2:1-4, 42-47

page 121 in the new testament in the pew bible

the word of God for the people of God.

thanks be to God.

presentation of the offerings

children's message

message

"why church?"

rev. paul a fleck

anthem

"how far is heaven"

joys & concerns

song 12

"shout to the north"

song 52

"you shine"

sending forth

**New Milford United Methodist Church
 Every Member A Disciple**

Ushers—9:30 a.m. — Roger and Maryanne Ploof

11:30 a.m.—The Cannito Family

Liturgist—Larry Tripp



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

*15th Sunday after Pentecost
 Sunday, September 21st, 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
 Hymn #3152 (W&S)**

"Welcome"

WELCOME

Call to Worship

Once we walked the hillsides and pathways

Then, in fear we hid in an upper room

News of Jesus' Resurrection stunned and awed our souls.

We didn't know what to believe.

Long ago, God's Holy Spirit inflamed the hearts of those who had hidden in fear. They were encouraged to go and proclaim God's Good News to all the world.

May God's Holy Spirit inflame our hearts and stir us from apathy and complacency to energy and enthusiasm to serve God in this world. Amen.

Prayer for Illumination

Holy God,

Author of the Word made flesh,

To whom belongs both the first Word and the last,

Open us to your Spirit,

That as scripture is spoken and your Word proclaimed,

We may be comforted, convinced, and changed

To the glory of Jesus Christ,

In whose name we pray. Amen.

New Testament Reading

Acts 2:1-4, 42-47

Page 121 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
Prayer**

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 "Built on a Rock" SHACKLEY
The children are invited to go out to Sunday School after the Anthem.

Prayer

Almighty God, your Holy Spirit came to Jesus' disciples, hidden in an upper room in Jerusalem. A violent wind and tongues of fire were the symbols of a new thing happening in their lives. May your Holy Spirit burst into our lives, encouraging and inspiring us to proclaim boldly the good news of Jesus Christ who offers healing and hope to all people. Amen.

RESPONSES

Please stand as you are able for the hymn.

Hymn #620 "One Bread, One Body" ONE BREAD, ONE BODY

Morning Prayer

Joys and concerns are lifted before God and the congregation.

Pastoral Prayer

Prayer of Confession

We aren't ready, Lord. It is easier for us to hide in the upper rooms of our lives, to let the world go by and not acknowledge your presence. But you have challenged us to come alive again with your love and words of healing mercy. Forgive our hesitant witness and our complacent spirits. Heal our fears and our wounds. Help us to be agents of healing and hope for others. Challenge and inspire us to overcome our feelings of inadequacy and remind us that you have called us beloved and have given us what we need to proclaim your Good News. In Jesus' Name, we pray. Amen.

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.**

Sermon "Why Church?" Rev. Paul A. Fleck

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

Hymn #558 "We Are the Church" PORT JERVIS

SENDING FORTH

JOYS AND CONCERNS

we are thankful:

- "Our Daily Bread" is celebrating its 9th anniversary.
- Herb and Janice Mayette will celebrate their 50th Anniversary on Friday, September 26th.
- Katie Bisaccia, Jan and Gene Parsons' granddaughter, whose knee injury is improving allowing her to be off her crutches.
-

our prayers are with:

- Kay Jones, who had hand surgery.
- Giovanni and his parents, who meet with doctors to decide whether or not to remove his kidney.
- Lyle Nichols, grandson of Ann and Tom Tibbatts, as he begins a 2 year Peace Corp commitment in Nepal.
- Charlie Chapin, as he heals.
- Lisa Best, who was recently hospitalized and released with diverticulitis and heart failure.
- Mary Gunther, who had abdominal surgery, and is in Danbury Hospital
- 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
- Millie Ackerly's daughter, who is receiving cancer treatment.

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

DID YOU KNOW ABOUT THE LAY LEADERS IN OUR CHURCH? Pat Tripp and Marilyn Fuller are our *Lay Leaders*. Their role is to link the congregation with the Pastor, and work on behalf of the congregation. We meet weekly with Pastor Paul to discuss church matters and concerns. We represent the congregation members and also work on behalf of the pastor to report back to church members. We are also liaisons between various persons who hold jobs or roles in the church. **THE LAY LEADERS HAVE A PRIMARY FOCUS IN LINKING THE LOCAL CHURCH AND COMMUNITY.**

Scripture at the Tripps, Wednesday, October 1st at 6:45 p.m. Call Pat Tripp at 860-354-8720 to RSVP and to get directions. All are welcome!

"first: putting GOD first in living and giving"—Book Study and Prayer Group. As a part of our Fall stewardship campaign, we will study Mike Slaughter's book *shiny gods: finding freedom from things that distract us* on Thursdays at 7 p.m. starting Oct. 2 and ending on Oct. 23.

During the month of October, we are also asking the entire congregation to engage in prayer as we consider our pledge to the church over the coming month. Chris Prause has agreed to lead a team who will pray for our efforts during this stewardship campaign; they will use the *first* devotional as a guide. Anyone who wishes to hold our church, its mission, and its ministries in prayer can join. The prayer team will meet daily via conference call (Dial-in Number: (712) 775-7031; Meeting ID: 453-833-376) at 7 a.m. and 12 noon starting Monday September 29. The prayer team will also have weekly in-person "Soup & Prayer" meetings on Mondays at 6 p.m. during the campaign starting September 29 through October 20.

Pie Makers—Oct. 3 at 8:30 p.m. help is needed to make pies for the Fall Fair. If you can help, please call Helen Leary at 860-354-7217 All are welcome from peelers to those who like to roll out crusts.

Fall Fair—The Fall Fair will be held Saturday, October 4th from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Donations of baked goods, tag sale items, and homemade soups are needed, as are volunteers for several areas including set-up and tag sale item pick-up. For more information contact Mike Martin, Fall Fair Chair, at 860-355-4118 or mrm189@nep.net.

World Communion Sunday Special Collection on October 5- There will be a special collection taken to support scholarships for national and international students, Ethnic Scholarships for national and international undergraduates studying within the United States and ethnic in-service training.