

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.

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. The Singleton/Thomas family is making weekly trips to Hartford Children's Hospital for Giovanni's treatment. To help off-set the expense, gas cards are being collected. 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. 29 at 10:30 am Tai Chi in Fellowship Hall
 at 6:00 pm "First" Soup and Prayer Group in FH
 at 6:00 pm Open Door Band in Sanctuary
 at 7:00 pm Wesley Group in Conference Room
 Wed., Oct. 1 at 5:00 pm Fall Fair Tent Set-up
 at 6:45 pm Scripture Study at the Tripp's
 at 7:00 pm BSA Troop 31 Meeting in FH
 Thurs., Oct. 2 at 3:00 pm "Our Daily Bread" in Food Barn
 at 5:45 pm Bells Practice in Sanctuary
 Fri., Oct. 3 Fall Fair Set-Up in Fellowship Hall
 at 8:30 am Fall Fair Pie Making in Kitchen
 Sat. Oct. 4 at 8:00 a.m. Fall Fair in Fellowship Hall and Churchyard
 Sun., Oct. 5 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

Every Week Day at 7:30 am and 12:00 pm—Prayer Team Conference Call
 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 6 "i could sing of your love forever"
 song 69 "here i am to worship"

welcome & announcements

moment of silence

passing the peace

song 20 "ocean"
 song 60 "unashamed love"

epistle lesson colossians 1:15-21
 page 200 in the new testament in the pew bible

second epistle lesson ephesians 1:7-13
 page 192 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 Jesus?" rev. paul a fleck

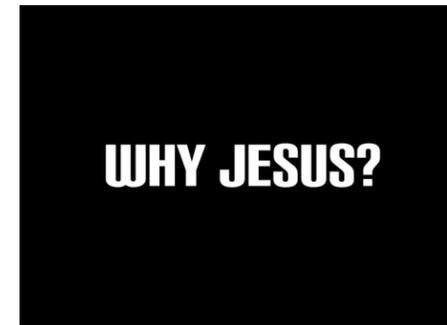
anthem "mary, did you know?"

joys & concerns

song 63 "my redeemer lives"
 song 83 "everybody praise the Lord"

sending forth

Ushers—9:30 a.m. — Sue Sterling and Lu Vivona
11:30 a.m.—The Walsh Family
Liturgist—Rita Iverson



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

16th Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday, September 28th, 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, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy" RESTORATION
Hymn #340

Call to Worship

In Jesus Christ
 all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell.
**Through him God was reconciled to all things
 in heaven and on earth, even to us,
 that we might be holy and blameless before God.**
 In awe and gratitude, let us worship the Lord our God.

Prayer for Illumination

**O God, as the Scriptures are read and the gospel proclaimed,
 open our ears to hear your Word,
 open our eyes to see your truth,
 and open our hearts to receive your grace. Amen.**

First Epistle Reading Colossians 1:15-21
 Page 200 in the New Testament in your pew Bible.

Second Epistle Reading Ephesians 1:7-13
 Page 192 in the New Testament in your pew Bible.

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

Gospel Reading John 3:16-17
 Page 94 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 “I Will Arise and Go to Jesus” LOVEFACE

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

Prayer

Almighty God,
you brought creation into being through Christ,
and in Christ all things find their purpose.
You reconciled all things to you by and in Jesus Christ.
Open our eyes to see the world as your gift
and to use your gifts for the sake of Jesus,
that through the witness of our lives
the gospel may be proclaimed to all people. We stand before you steadfast in
the hope promised by our brother, Jesus. **Amen.**

RESPONSES

Please stand as you are able for the hymn.

Hymn #3074 “Jesus Is a Rock in a Weary Land” WEARY LAND

Morning Prayer

Joys and concerns are lifted before God and the congregation.

Prayers of Intercession

In peace let us pray to the Lord saying, Lord have mercy.

For the church throughout the world,
that we may follow Christ our Head,
and be blameless in living the gospel of reconciliation,
let us pray to the Lord.

Lord have mercy.

For the nations of the world,
that all may live without fear of oppression, poverty, or war,
let us pray to the Lord.

Lord have mercy.

For the earth, that we may wisely use its resources
for the benefit of humankind
and offer help wherever natural disaster has fractured human trust
in the goodness of creation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord have mercy.

For the leaders of the nations,
that they may honor justice, protect the weak,
and serve the common good, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord have mercy.

For our communities and neighborhoods,

that all may dwell in harmony, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord have mercy.

For our enemies, that we may find reconciliation with them
for the sake of Christ, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord have mercy.

For all who are sick and in trouble,
that they may find healing and peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord have mercy.

Merciful God, hear the prayers of your people,
offered in steadfast faith and hope in your care for us.
For we ask these things in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

Prayer of Confession

All-glorious God, we have faith in Jesus Christ, and love towards your people, yet we are not without blemish in your sight, not full of love, wisdom, and other spiritual blessings you still have available for us. Our love is not as inclusive as yours, and there is much we need to learn. Give us clearer vision of all that we are meant to be, so that by becoming fulfilled, we may increase the glory that is properly revealed in Jesus Christ, your beloved. 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 Jesus?” Rev. Paul A. Fleck

Litany

For so long God has hoped for a righteous leader,
And we have seen visions and dreamed dreams.
We have waited for one who would share God's spirit—
Who would judge the fearful with righteousness and the poor with justice;
Who would show compassion to the weak and mercy to the condemned;
Who would break down the walls dividing the peoples, that all on earth might follow a star.
For so long have we seen the visions; for so long have the dreams been dreamed.
But now the vision has found its life, arid the dream has come to pass—
ALL: Here is the One for whom we have waited! Let us open and offer our hearts, our souls, our minds!

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

Hymn #365 “Grace Greater than Our Sin” MOODY

SENDING FORTH

JOYS AND CONCERNS

our prayers are with:

- The Family of Bishop Martin McLee upon his passing.
- Kay Jones, who had hand surgery.
- Giovanni and his family, as his treatment for cancer continues.
- Charlie Chapin, as he heals.
- Laurel Partrick’s cousin, Cynthia, is facing her third recurrence of cancer and started chemotherapy on September 22.
- 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

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

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, which you will be receiving **TODAY**, as a guide. Anyone who wishes to hold our church, its mission, and its ministries in prayer can join. The prayer team will meet **weekdays** 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.

Soups & Chili are needed for the Fall Fair—We would like to have a great variety of soups for sale so please use your imagination. Soups & Chilis will be accepted Friday, October 3 and Saturday, October 4, beginning at 8 am. We can also use crockpots – you can bring your soup or chili in your crockpot - and electric power strips. For more information or to volunteer with us, please contact Tracie Nixon at tracienix@gmail.com or 860-354-4596 or Marlene Davis [mmdavis@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mmmdavis@sbcglobal.net) or 860-354-8725.

Pie Makers—Oct. 3 at 8:30 a.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.