

Relay for Life—Plans are underway for this year’s Relay for Life team—The Methodist Movers. There are various ways to get involved. Plan to join them on May 2nd at 9:00 a.m., for a Zumba class Fundraiser at Phys-Ed. For more information contact Team Leader, Linda Slater, at 860-354-6180 or lslater0256@yahoo.com.

All Star Concert—The All-Star Concert 2015 will be held on Friday, May 22 beginning at 6:30 pm with a silent auction and refreshments. The bands will begin to play at 8:00 pm. The event promises to be a great time, highlighted by first-rate music for only \$12 per ticket, plus a cash refreshment and bar area. Members of Higher & Higher, Tony T. Orchestra, City Express Band, Future Tense, Perfect timing Duo, Shoo Fly, Two Dollar Hat, and the Open Door Band will be performing. To purchase tickets, send your check to the church address with your contact information and we will have your tickets at the will-call table at the event. You can also go to this website: www.showclix.com/event/all-starconcert where you can purchase tickets for a small fee. We are also looking for items for the silent auction so if you know a business that might be willing to donate an item or a service, please contact one of the members of the auction committee—Steve Kolitz at sbkolitz@sbcglobal.net or 203-417-9670, Tracie Nixon at tracienix@gmail.com or 203-994-7763 or Marlene Davis at mmdavis@sbcglobal.net or 203-417-4554. Information and links for the All-Star Concert can also be found on the church website - www.newmilfordumc.org.

Meetings & Opportunities this week:

TODAY Blood Pressure Check by Parish Nurses
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 Contemporary Worship in Sanctuary

Mon., Apr. 13 at 10:30 am Tai Chi in Fellowship Hall
at 6:00 pm Open Door Band Practice in Sanctuary
at 6:30 pm United Methodist Men in Fellowship Hall

Tues., Apr. 14 at 7:00 pm Trustees in Conference Room

Wed., Apr. 15 at 7:00 pm Boy Scout Troop 31 in Fellowship Hall

Thurs., Apr. 16 at 1:30 p.m. Book Club in Fellowship Hall
at 3:00 pm “Our Daily Bread” in Food
at 3:30 pm Bridgeport Rescue Mission (off-site)
at 5:45 pm Bells Practice in Sanctuary
at 6:30 pm Cub Scout Pack 467 in Fellowship Hall

Fri., Apr. 17 at 3:30 pm Loaves and Fishes (off-site)

Sat., Apr. 18 at 7:15 pm Family Bowling (Lore’s Lanes)

Sun., Apr. 19 at 9:30 am Traditional Worship Service
at 10:00 am Children’s Sunday School
at 10:30 am Adult Sunday School
at 11:30 am Contemporary Worship Service
at 1:00 pm Senior Luncheon in Fellowship Hall
at 2:00 pm Nominations and Lay Leaders in CR

AA meetings in Fellowship Hall

Monday - Friday at noon and Saturday at 9:30 p.m.

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 “humble thyself”
song “come into this house”

welcome & announcements

passing the peace

song “above all”

contemplative moment

song “mighty to save”

first gospel lesson luke 15:1-10
page 78 in the new testament in your pew Bible.

second gospel lesson luke 15:11-32
page 78 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

sermon “lost sheep, lost coin, lost son” paul a. fleck

joys & concerns

song “my redeemer lives”

song “trading my sorrows”

sending forth

NEW MILFORD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

“Every Member a Disciple”

**Ushers— 9:30 a.m. Sue Sterling and Helen Leary
11:30 a.m. The Walsh Family**



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

2nd Sunday of Easter

Sunday, April 12, 2015 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

Please stand, as you are able, for the hymn and remain standing through the reading of the Gospel.

Processional “Amazing Grace” **AMAZING GRACE**
Hymn #378

Call to Worship

Leader: Come, let us celebrate the forgiving, reconciling love of God.

People: For once we were lost and felt so far away; now we have been found and welcomed home.

Leader: Know that God’s love is lavished upon you forever.

People: We rejoice at the news of forgiveness and hope!

Leader: Come, let us celebrate and praise the God of Love.

People: Amen!

Sung Prayer for Illumination

Tell me the stories of Jesus I love hear;

Things I would ask him to tell me if He were here:

Scenes by the wayside, tales of the sea,

Stories of Jesus, tell them to me.

First Gospel Lesson Luke 15:1-10

Page 78 in the New Testament of 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, as you are able, 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 "Lord, Lead Me Lord!" MARTIN
The children are invited to go out to Sunday School after the Anthem.

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

Second Gospel Lesson Luke 15:11-32

Page 78 in the New Testament of your pew Bible.

The Word of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

All Sit.

Prayer

How incredible is your love, O God! We have been made new in your love and reconciled to you and to each other in peace and joy. Be with us this day as we hear your words of comfort and hope. Guide our lives that we may serve you more fully all of our days. Amen.

RESPONSES

Please stand as you are able for the singing of hymn.

Hymn 2218 (insert) "You Are Mine" YOU ARE MINE

Morning Prayer

Joys and concerns are lifted before God and the congregation.

Pastoral Prayer

Prayer of Confession

Lord, it is interesting that it is easy for us to identify with today's scripture about the "Prodigal Son". Some of us are easily reminded of our own selfishness and stubbornness when we willfully sought our own way. Others are reminded about how angry we were when others were not held accountable for their actions, when we have been so careful not to displease anyone. Still others can identify with the father who, feeling the loss of his son, welcomes him home again, reminding the brother that he has always been in the love and care of the Father. We hear this story and it's a pleasant memory. But do we really understand what it is about? Do we know that we have also been

stubborn and selfish, angry and unforgiving, sorrowful and caught between two conflicting factions? We are no different from these characters, in our own unique way. Yet, in God's infinite love, we also are forgiven and healed. We are called to turn our lives back to God's care, which is always extended to us. Forgive us and heal us, gracious God. Open our hearts and our spirits to truly receive the blessings of your healing love. For it is in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ, that we pray. Amen.

Words of Assurance

Passing the Peace

During Passing of the Peace we ask, during cold and flu season, that you greet your neighbor verbally.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM

Please refer to page 39 in your hymnal

Louis and Sarah Taranto
present their son
Thomas John Taranto born April 4, 2014

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 "Lost Sheep, Lost Coin, Lost Son" Paul A. Fleck

Hymn 381 "Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us" BRADBURY

SENDING FORTH

JOYS AND CONCERNS

our prayers are with:

- Jerry and Kay Jones on the death of Jerry's uncle, Malcom Starr.
- The family of George Perry, a friend of Mary Gunther, upon his death.
- Larissa Drefus' uncle, David, who is in hospice care.
- Matt and Dee Yukon's family who both recently passed away and leave two surviving young children.
- Student of Jen Burns' whose father passed away a few weeks ago and whose mom is in hospice.
- Roberta Buddle's niece, Wendy, who is undergoing chemotherapy for breast cancer.
- Diane Jones, a relative Linda and Alex Slater, who had a large tumor removed from her bladder and will be undergoing chemotherapy.
- Rob, Traci Poeti's brother, who has a muscular disorder.
- Alexis, Chris Martirano's niece, who is going through chemotherapy.
- Chris Martirano's father-in-law and mother-in-law, who are experiencing health issues.
- Bonnie Knapp's sister-in-law, Linda, who is experiencing kidney problems.
- Terri Hudak's cousin, Julie Spence in Virginia, who is battling cancer.
- Terri Hudak's aunt in California who has been diagnosed with breast cancer.
- Jeanne Johnson, friend of Laurel Partrick, who has been diagnosed with liver cancer.

- Steve Bowers, who is now on dialysis and has been added to the transplant list.
- Laurel Partrick's cousin, Cynthia, is facing her third recurrence of cancer.
- Emily Nixon's cousin, who has been diagnosed with cancer.
- Marlene Davis' son, who is undergoing chemotherapy.
- Kay Jones' niece, Sherri, 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

Fellowship Hour—Please join us between services for Fellowship Hour in Fellowship Hall. All are invited!

Family Bowling—Family Bowling Night will be held this Saturday, April 18th, at 7:15 p.m. at Lore's Lanes (145D Danbury Road, behind Goodwill). Please RSVP to Linda Slater at 860-354-6180 or lslater0256@yahoo.com no later than April 16th to ensure adequate lane space.

Wise and Wonderful Lunch—All seniors are invited to attend the annual "Wise and Wonderful Luncheon" to be held Sunday, April 19th at 1:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. This is a great opportunity for seniors to get together for food, fun, and fellowship. If you need a ride or to RSVP, please contact the church office at 860-354-4596 ext. 10 or by email at office@newmilfordumc.org. If you have questions or would like additional information, please contact Bonnie Knapp at 860-355-0559.

You can support the **Kairos Prison Ministry April 23-26** by filling our the prayer hands and placing them in the Offering Plate or by handing them directly to Chris Prause. Chris also will have the forms that need to be submitted to the Dept. of Corrections if you are interested in attending the closing ceremonies on April 26.

Mother's/Father's Day Cards—Since 1989, NMUMC has offered the opportunity to purchase Mother's and Father's Day cards through the tools and blankets program of church world service. Through the sale of these cards NMUMC has contributed over \$6,500 to date toward the purchase of tool and blanket supplies for people in developing countries. Mother's Day Cards will be on sale April 26th, May 3rd, and May 10th. Father's Day Cards on sale June 7th, 14th and 21st. If you have questions, please contact Bonnie Knapp at (860) 355-0559.

New Member Orientation—There is a New Member Orientation scheduled for Saturday, May 2nd at 9:00 a.m. in the Conference Room. Anyone interested in learning more about joining the Church should plan to attend.

Scholarships—Faye and Art Carlson Scholarship applications are available in the Lobby and on the Church website—www.newmilfordumc.org. Scholarship applicants must be members of NMUMC. Scholarship applications are due no later than May 24, 2015. Scholarships will be awarded on June 14th, 2015 and recipients must be present at either the 9:30 a.m. Traditional Service or the 11:30 a.m. Open Door Service to accept.

Gift Cards—If you'd like to support the scholarship fund, don't forget to place your 'Gift Cards' order. Order forms are available on the shelves underneath the bulletin board outside the kitchenette in the Lobby. You may also contact Heather Morin with any questions h-860-354-8406; c-203-770-5782; e-hmorin218@yahoo.com.