

Avon Congregational Church
Avon, Connecticut
United Church of Christ
Sunday, November 6, 2011 (church cancelled)
Same order of Service November 13, 2011
Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost

PRELUDE.....Prelude on *Adoro Te*..... Moore

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*+ OPENING HYMN.....*My Hope Is Built* No. 368

* CALL TO WORSHIP

L: We gather this morning for worship, tender with personal concerns and brittle from the bruising of the world.

P: We come searching for meaning and hungry for comfort and peace.

L: We pray from personal longings and in intercession for all God's children; we share our hopes and concerns; we offer our gifts and celebrate healing.

P: May we receive God's unexpected blessings, exalt in God's holy name and taste God's love.

* PRAYER OF INVOCATION AND LORD'S PRAYER

Wonderful and Gracious God, we come to You this day from many different places. Some of us – many of us – come weary from the stress and strain of our days, seeking the rest that only You can give. Some of us come doubting or shaken in our faith, seeking Your spiritual quickening. Some of us come confident that You and You alone can restore us to our sense of balance and wholeness. But whatever our condition of mind, heart, or spirit, we come giving thanks that You accept and welcome us as we are, and in your transforming love, are even now changing the old clothing of our souls for new. We open ourselves to Your working within and among us, as we lift our spirits into the light of Your holy presence, and our voices in praise of our goodness. As You are present to us O God, help us be present to You and to one another. Guide and lead us and help us to follow - that we might be

ANTHEM..... *God is So Good*..... Donald Wagner
Gallery Singers

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation to the Table

L: God be with you.

P: And also with you.

L: We gather now around the table with the offering of bread and drink upon it and the promise of the Living Christ among us. This is the welcome table of God where all who seek the mercy of God in Christ and all who seek to be at peace with their neighbor are embraced.

P: Jesus said: "I am the bread of life. All who come to me shall not hunger, and all who believe in me shall never thirst."

L: Therefore come now to Christ's Table, all you who are loved by God. Come, and be fed with the food that is given freely; Come, and quench your thirst from the Waters of Life; let your spirit be filled again with the goodness of your Creator, as you remember Him in his earthly life and how He shared the bread and cup with His followers. Let us together remember how on the night of his betrayal...

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

The Sharing of the Bread and the Cup

(The Pastor will give instructions for the serving of the communion elements)

Unison Prayer of Thanksgiving

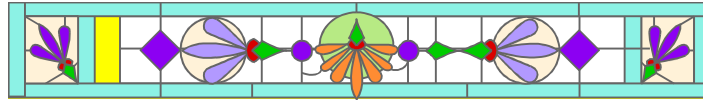
ALL: Gracious and loving God, You have made us one in the body of Christ, and nourished us at Your table with holy food and drink. Thank you for feeding our hunger and relieving our thirst. Now send us into the world to do the work You have given us to do: to find the lost and lonely, to heal broken souls, to share Your love wherever we can. Grant us strength to persevere in resisting evil, and to proclaim in all we say and do Your good news in Christ Jesus our Savior. Amen.

* CLOSING HYMN.....*Eternal Father, Strong to Save* (Insert)

* BENEDICTION AND DISMISSAL TO FELLOWSHIP HALL

* POSTLUDE.....*Fairest Lord Jesus* Flor Peeters

* All who are able may stand
+ **Latecomer seating**



Welcome

With pleasure we welcome all who have come to worship with us today. We invite you to join us for coffee and fellowship after the service to get acquainted with those who are near you. Newcomers are asked to sign the guest book (at either entrance) if you have not already done so.

Large print worship bulletins as well as personal sound monitors are available each Sunday morning for the hearing and visually impaired; please speak with an usher if you would like to use one. When people are prompted to stand, those for whom standing is difficult may feel free to remain seated.

Pew cards are available for those attending worship to make **prayer requests** as well as ask for information regarding church programs. **We invite visitors to give us contact information in the space provided.** Pew cards may be placed in the offering plate.

Our Crib Room/Nursery is open Sunday mornings from 9:45 until after worship for children ages infant – three and their parents. An overhead speaker allows adults to follow the worship service while their children relax and play.

We welcome children in worship. Special activity bulletins are available; please ask an usher for assistance. All children are welcome to attend Church School, which begins right after the Passing of the Peace.

Lay Reader David Will
Hospitality Beth Ferrari
Trustee of the Day Dave Crowther

Today 10:00 Worship Service – Meeting House
11:30 Stewardship – Classroom 6
5:00 Youth – Mission 1
Monday 7:30 Celebration Ringers – Music Room
Tuesday 10:00 Tuesday Crafters – FH
7:00 Diaconate – Library
7:00 Finance – Classroom 6

<i>Wednesday</i>	5:30	Avon Nursery School Board
	7:00	Gallery Singers – Music Room
<i>Thursday</i>	7:00	Service of New Beginnings – Sanctuary
<i>Saturday</i>	9:00	Stone Soup – Kitchen
<i>Next Sunday</i>	10:00	Worship Service – Meeting House
	11:15	Footsteps to the Future – Fellowship Hall
	11:15	Christian Service & Outreach – Library
	11:30	Christian Education – CE Office

Prayer List: Linda Edwards – cousin of Sandy Lytle; Julie Poll – friend of Margaret Bratton; Leo Boswell; Bon Smith; Jacklyn Essex; William Brogan; Warren Maheu; Bill Brooks; David Randolph; Natalia Hanks; Linda Gouzounis; Lisa Farrar; Karen Rowntree; Marlea Faulkner; Jamie Botteon; Tanya Manchester; Pat Parker; Jacob Coleman; Nate Testerman; all military personnel and veterans.

Birthdays this Week: Vinith Keola, Matt Ferrari, Ben Stepien, Jennifer deSimas, Andrea Noyes, John Polo, Drew Clarke, Michaela Hull, Betty Forristall.

Footsteps to the Future Workshop – Change of Date!

Please join Rev. Martha **next Sunday, November 13th** in Fellowship Hall following worship for a workshop to revisit the history of Avon Congregational Church in the 80's, 90's and today. The workshop will be approximately two hours long. A light lunch will be served.

Announcements

All Children will remain in worship today.

Sunday School Students! Keep filling your Heifer International Project Ark Banks with stray coins! Bring them back by November 13th!

Parents, please plan to attend Rev. Martha's first Footsteps to the Future workshop on Sunday November 13 after worship and Sunday School. The Board of Christian Education will provide child care during the program for all Sunday School age children.

If you would like to sing with the Ecumenical Choir on Thanksgiving Eve at the Methodist church, please attend the beginning of our choir rehearsal on Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. Our very own Benita Rose will be conducting!

Rev. Martha and Music Director Benita Rose will be attending a Taizé service at First Church of Christ Congregational, South Main Street, West Hartford, November 13th at 5:00 p.m. Anyone is welcome to come and join in the discussion of whether or not this is a direction this church is interested in taking.

You are invited to attend a special worship service - a service of "New Beginnings" - Thursday, November 10 at 7:00 in the ACC sanctuary. It will be a brief service of readings, meditations, hymns and special music to facilitate our intentional and prayerful focus of this interim time in the life of this congregation. This service of "New Beginnings" takes on the same theme as our stewardship campaign this year, as well as initiating the "Footsteps to the Future" process of reflection and futuring. Mark your calendars now and plan to attend this service of New Beginnings" as we begin to move into the future with intention and hope.

**Please Welcome the 'Pony Express' When They Deliver
the Ministry Plan for 2012**

If you live in the Avon, Simsbury, Canton, Farmington area you should be receiving a call sometime before Nov. 13 to have a copy of the New Beginnings Ministry Plan delivered to your door. This is a new way of communicating about our ministries and goals for 2012, that has been gathered with love and care into a brief 'book' of photos and inspiring words. We ask that you take a few minutes to read it, and prayerfully consider how you will be involved in God's work at ACC in 2012. Then please complete the Faith Commitment form with your name on it in the back of the book, seal the envelope, and place it in the book pocket. It will be delivered confidentially to the church office. We ask that everyone complete a form, regardless of your level of commitment, so that we know your thoughts and plans about ACC. For those members and friends outside of the immediate area, a packet is being mailed to you.

We are taught "We love because God first Loved us" (John 3:19). As you read the Ministry Plan book you will see a number of ways that our church spreads God's word and love around us. God has granted us an abundance of gifts and the opportunity to share them. Your personal and unique gifts of talent, time, and resources will make a *big difference* in what ACC will be able to accomplish in the year ahead. Please share them generously. Alice Noyes 860/675-9302 & Chris Graesser 860/677-7156, Stewardship

Staff Contact List

The Rev. Martha F. Chenault, Interim Pastor	interimpastor@avon-church.org
Benita Rose, Director of Music Ministries	piano6861@sbcglobal.net
Jennifer deSimas, Director of Christian Education	ceminister@avon-church.org
Beth Ferrari, Administrator	administrator@avon-church.org
Denise Beeney, Secretary	secretary@avon-church.org
Church Website	www.avon-church.org

Eternal Father, Strong to Save

William Whiting, 1825-1878, alt.

MELITA 8.8.8.8.8.
John B. Dykes, 1823-1876

1 E - ter - nal Fa - ther, strong to save, Whose arm doth bind the
2 O Sav - ior, whose al - might - y word, The winds and waves sub -
3 O Ho - ly Spir - it, who didst brood Up - on the cha - os
4 O Trin - i - ty of love and power! Our breth - ren shield in

rest - less wave, Who bidd'st the might - y o - cean deep Its
mis - sive heard, Who walk - edst on the foam - ing deep, And
dark and rude, Who bad'st its an - gry tu - mult cease, And
dan - ger's hour; From rock and tem - pest, fire and foe, Pro -

own ap - point - ed lim - its keep, O hear us when we
calm a - mid its rage didst sleep, O hear us when we
gav - est light, and life, and peace, O hear us when we
tect them where - so - e'er they go; Thus ev - er - more shall

cry to thee, For those in per - il on the sea.
cry to thee, For those in per - il on the sea.
cry to thee, For those in per - il on the sea.
rise to thee Glad hymns of praise from land and sea. A - men