The Steeple
May 2019

Acting Senior Pastor – Reverend Shannon Wall – revwall@nmchurch.org
Music Director – Sarah Fay – musicdirector@nmchurch.org
Manager of Church Operations – Nicole Henderson – nhenderson@nmchurch.org
Bell Choir Director – Sarah Albright – bells@nmchurch.org
Director of Christian Education – Becky Passero – cedirector@nmchurch.org
Moderator – Susan Chapin – moderator@nmchurch.org
Vice Moderator – Michael Curley – vicemoderator@nmchurch.org
Treasurer – Evelyn LeCates – treasurer@nmchurch.org
Recording Secretary – Evelyn Sandberg – secretary@nmchurch.org
Financial Secretary – Deborah Staib – financial@nmchurch.org
Room Manager – Mike Bensema – pr@nmchurch.org
Steeple Editor – Janet Wittmann – steeple@nmchurch.org

Office Hours: Monday to Thursday 9:00-12:00 Noon.
Office Phone: 860.354.8232  (Answering Service available 24/7)
Fax Line: 860.354.4327
E-mail: church@nmchurch.org
Web site: www.nmchurch.org
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
<th>Page/Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>May 4</td>
<td>Spring Clean-up</td>
<td>See page 13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 5</td>
<td>Worship Service - Communion</td>
<td>10:00 AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 10</td>
<td>Healing Circle</td>
<td>See page 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 11</td>
<td>Craft Fair</td>
<td>See page 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 12</td>
<td>Worship Service</td>
<td>10:00 AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mother's Day Blanket Dedication</td>
<td>See page 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 15</td>
<td>Baby Bundles</td>
<td>See page 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 18</td>
<td>Men's Breakfast</td>
<td>See page 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 19</td>
<td>Worship Service</td>
<td>10:00 AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Spring Meeting</td>
<td>See page 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Chapel Stitchers</td>
<td>See page 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 26</td>
<td>Worship Service</td>
<td>10:00 AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Remembrance Sunday</td>
<td>See page 13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 2</td>
<td>Worship Service - Communion</td>
<td>10:00 AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 9</td>
<td>Worship Service - Baccalaureate Sunday</td>
<td>10:00 AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>A.Russell Ayre Scholarship Awards</td>
<td>See page 19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>All-Church Picnic</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 14</td>
<td>Healing Circle</td>
<td>See page 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 16</td>
<td>Worship Service</td>
<td>10:00 AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 23</td>
<td>Worship Service</td>
<td>10:00 AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 25-28</td>
<td>Vacation Bible Camp</td>
<td>See pages 20-22</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Pastor’s Page

Dear Church,

Wow! We on the Meetinghouse Restoration Committee are so impressed with the way this church has stepped up, once again, and exceeded our 2019 goal of raising $40,000, which will be matched by a generous church family for a total of $80,000+ in new funds. And this is on top of significant giving from many individuals and families over the last eight years. It is a testament to how much this church means to so many and to a faith in the things God is doing through and among us.

We would like to update you on the project as of this writing (April 15), and give you a general sense of what you can expect in the months ahead. The bottom line is that we are going to get the roof replaced, the trusses repaired and the scaffolding out of the sanctuary this year!

How are we doing that? In addition to the pre-2019 funds raised (just over $405,000) plus the $80,000 matching money, we are applying for a grant from the State Historical Preservation Office (SHPO) for $100,000 (also a matching grant). The application will be submitted May 10, and we will know if we have received the grant the first week in June. Cost estimates are still being finalized, but we are confident that we can pay for the roof, trusses and some chimney work with what we have raised plus the grant.

If the grant is approved, it will take 4-6 weeks to execute the contract, during which time, our Construction Subcommittee (John Wittmann, Jeff Vill and Nick Pouder) will prepare the bid documents, working with Pat Conlon’s engineering firm. Once the contract is executed, multiple bids will be solicited and evaluated, and a general contractor will be selected, using agreed-upon criteria. The state needs to approve the contractor, contracts will be signed, and the work will begin. If all goes well, construction should start around the beginning of September and be completed around Christmas!

The deacons and I are considering where to worship during this construction period. Stay tuned.

The MRC is also looking ahead and planning for future grant applications to help fund other work that needs to be done beginning in 2020, including painting the façade of the meetinghouse, repairing the steeple, and making our buildings more accessible to all.

Many thanks to all who have contributed so much over many years, including the previous Raise the Roof Committee, Jan Wittmann for keeping track of the contributions, and the current Meetinghouse Restoration Committee.

If you have questions or comments, please feel free to contact any of us on the MRC: Pam Cafiero (our excellent grant writer and note taker), Susan Chapin (finance guru and keeper of the spreadsheets), Dave Eherts (cheerleader and clear thinker), Dave Elmore (he does it all!), Jerry King (the king of persistence), Barbara McGiver (a force of nature), Dan Martin (fearless team leader who keeps us on track), Nick Pouder (architect, detail maven and networker), Evelyn Sandberg (helpful for all things, especially insurance), John Wittmann (40-year church member and head of Trustees who has truly seen it all when it comes to our buildings), and Jeff Vill (creative construction expert).
If all goes according to plan, we should be celebrating Christmas this year in this historic meetinghouse.

I join you in giving thanks to God for this church and for the many blessings so evident here. I am grateful to be among you and inspired by what God is doing at the church on the green on this beautiful corner of God’s green earth.

Grace and peace,

Rev. Shannon Wall, Acting Pastor

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**Prayers**

Anyone wishing to submit a prayer request during the week, or to alert the pastor to a need or a member you have not seen in church for a while is asked to call the church office at 860-354-8232. We have an answering service, so you can call at your convenience, anytime day or night.

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Our Spring Meeting will be held Sunday **May 19**, following worship service. Agenda items include, but are not limited to, committee nominations. All members are encouraged to attend and participate in the governance of the church.
Deacon's Bench

Belts and Suspenders

One of the social media platforms I use these days is called STRAVA. It was intended as a virtual locker room where cyclists and runners can post their activities including their routes and times as well as pictures taken along the way. Everyone has “followers” and people who follow each other can give “kudos” to each other when they like their activities. Over time you wind up with a set of followers that are quite diverse. I have people I follow and who follow me in Thailand, Russia, England, Canada, and in many parts of the US. It is interesting to see the routes they take and photos of the sights along the way. One person I follow is a young lady in Switzerland who rides her bike up mountain passes in Switzerland and takes awesome photos of the surrounding mountains and valleys.

Recently, the young lady in Switzerland contacted her followers asking for support for her latest goal; to “Everest” on the Grosse Scheidegg (a mountain pass near the Eiger in Switzerland). “Everesting” is a marathon effort some cyclists undertake where they climb 8000M, the height of Mt Everest, in a single day. Since most folks do not have Mt Everest in their back yard this usually means that they must ascend some smaller hill multiple times. If you could use Mt Washington for this (which you cannot) you would have to climb it five or six times in succession with your bicycle. What struck me about this girl’s plea for help was not her request that people send her cookies, money, and encouragement to aid her in her endeavor. It was her statement that she suffers from “mental illnesses” and that cycling gives her the energy to fight her “demons”. I do not know what sort of challenges she faces but the admission of these “demons” hit home for me. Cycling, for her and for many of us, is a coping mechanism or part of a system of coping mechanisms that allows us to carry on and fight whatever other challenges we face in life.

On Facebook, another social media platform, I am friends with many families from Sandy Hook. We lived in Sandy Hook, only about a mile from the school, when the horrific shooting occurred. While we were fortunate that our son was not in that school, we knew several families that lost children and we knew even more families that had children in the school. The horrific events of that day have created unimaginable challenges for these families. Each family, it seems, has developed a different system for coping with the challenge. Many families advocate for causes such as violence prevention, mental health, or animal sanctuaries. Some families had another child and some families moved out of town.

Dr Jeremy Richmond who was a neuroscience researcher and the father of Avielle Richmond (a victim of the shooting) was an apparent standout in terms of coping. He used the tragedy as the impetus to found the Avielle Foundation which sought to “prevent violence and improve compassion through brain research”. Jeremy was also often quoted as saying he “got through life after Avielle by looking for something beautiful every day”. Jeremy Richmond recently passed away from an apparent suicide.

This is a tremendous loss to the Sandy Hook community. If Dr. Jeremy Richmond cannot manage to cope, what hope is there? Of course the community steps up in these situations. My Facebook feed is full of statements by members of the community promising an open door, a shoulder to cry on, an open channel. Renewed calls are being made to check on all
the members of the community more regularly to make sure this does not happen again. Still, many posts have a mood of fear and uncertainty rather than of sorrow and resolve.

In the face of these sorts of challenges, I could not and will not propose simple solutions. I cannot honestly say what would have or could have prevented Jeremy from doing what he did. I do know that we all have our challenges, some larger than others. I do know that we all have coping mechanisms to deal with those challenges. I think that we all need to build lots of redundancies into those systems (i.e. “Belts and Suspenders”) such as being a member of a strong faith community, setting aside some time each week for spiritual contemplation and reflection, volunteering time for a charity, and perhaps singing in the choir. Taking time to “count one’s blessings” needs to be part of everyone’s coping plan and, if the challenges are particularly daunting, seeking professional help has to be part of the regimen also.

For the young lady in Switzerland who is planning to Everest on the Grosse Scheidegg, I am glad that she has found cycling and added it to her coping system. Cycling works for me. It provides me with time to contemplate and think, it also allows me to burn off some energy and relax, plus it gives me a sense of accomplishment. I just hope that this young lady also has “belts and suspenders” and cycling is not her only coping mechanism. I hope that she also belongs to a strong, open and supportive faith community where she can count her blessings and use her talents to help others.

Paul Mayer
For the Board of Deacons

**Meetinghouse Restoration Project**

As of Sunday, April 14, we have exceeded our target of $40,000 in 2019 gifts, which will be matched by a generous church family! We now have $41,537 pledged toward our goal of a $40,000 Matching Fund for Meetinghouse Restoration. Thanks to all who have given so generously in the past, and to these folks who have given in 2019 toward the matching fund: Barbara Aher in memory of Lorraine Malone, Thelma Aldrich, Scott Alexander, Ruby Annese, Amarae Brockway, Susan Chapin & Paul Mayer, Elaine Donahue, Dave & Kathy Elmore, Jeff & Sandy Gammons, “Gospel of Mark” proceeds, Bruce & Virnette Hamilton, Karen Hapke, Betty Lou Haxo, Janet & Charles Junz, Jerry & Peggy King, Marjorie Landry, Evelyn LeCates, Donald & Lorna MacInnes, Barbara McGiver, Dan and Carrie Martin, Susan Metcalf, Gail & Chris Peck, Loyal & Cathy Pond, Debbie Poole, Nick & Linda Poudar, Chris & Tom Quinn, Anne & Peter Richardson, Evelyn Sandberg, Leslie Sarich, Carol Staib, Carol Staib in memory of Lorraine Malone, Charles Schuster, Sharon Schuster, Susan, Sennello, Diane Taylor, Frances Terry, Barbara Shimmel, K. Tucker & Karen Anderson, Tom Tucker, Jeff & Joan Vill, Shannon Wall & Larry Arno, Bonnie Westerberg, Cary Westfall, Doug Williams, John and Janet Wittmann, Charmaine Wood, and Jeff & Ann Wright in honor of Olive Wright’s baptism.
Bill and Chris Jackson have spruced up all of the plantings around the church buildings with mulch. From additional bulbs, planted by Bill last fall, it looks like we’re going to have a banner year of color this spring. Bill also cleaned and painted the walls in the Parish House mop/sink room while Chris vacuumed all of the floors. What an incredible and dedicated team!

Crown Maintenance, our commercial cleaner, stripped and refinished the bathroom and mop/sink room floors in the Parish House to a condition not seen in a very long time. In fact, the last valiant attempt was back when John and Pat Owen, John Wittmann, and another whom I’ve forgotten, tried to do the same, but didn’t come even close to what Crown has accomplished.

We continue to gain rental income from the Parsonage and also reimbursement for all of the utility bills. Since our survey of overall utility expenses revealed that the Parsonage accounted for approximately 40 Percent, this reimbursement is quite favorable to our bottom line.

Cary Westfall and Bill Jackson are once again spearheading Spring Clean-Up Day and Cary is also in-charge of lawn mowing sign-up. Please see Cary or the office to add your name to the list.

There remains a real issue with buildings being left open after meetings and events. It’s the Trustee-on-Duty’s responsibility to return later on Sunday, to check for security, but only on Sunday. The last one out after a meeting has to check for open windows, lights and devices still on, and locked doors. A door is not considered locked unless a tug on the handle is made to confirm.

We have confirmed renters for some rooms in the Parish House starting this summer, but at this point space remains available. We’ve extended our contract with real estate agent Chris LaCava, so if you have any leads, please let Mike Bensema know and he’ll work with Chris. We really need to nail this source of income down sooner rather than later. It’s not about our price per square foot – it’s about the size of the local inventory.

John Wittmann, Chair

Please join us! The Christian Education Committee is sponsoring this event on Saturday, May 11, from 10am until 2pm. All crafters are welcome - reserve your spot for $30, which will go to the Raise the Roof fund. Tables will be available in Fellowship Hall, if needed. Our youth group will be providing refreshments! Contact Jessica Menkes at bluroz17@gmail.com
The Chapel Stitchers

The Prayer Shawl Ministry will meet on **May 19th**, the third Sunday of the month. This is a change from our normal second Sunday of the month, allowing for our members to enjoy Mother’s Day. All are welcome to join us - beginner and/or advanced stitchers. We gather in the Chapel for a time of fellowship from 11:30am to 12:30pm. If you need a shawl, or know someone who does, please call the church office or see Leslie Schlemmer. Donations of yarn are always welcome.

![Image of knitted shawls]

Lawn Mowing Sign-up

The Trustees have asked for volunteers to mow our very limited lawn area each weekend from **April through October**. There will be a sign-up sheet at coffee hour. This effort saves the church quite a bit of money each summer. Volunteers will be sent a reminder of the date they have chosen. Thank you for helping to keep our church grounds inviting!

![Image of lawn mower]

Thank you!

- to the Jacksons for their help with the flower beds.
- to Dawn Kraft for her help in the office.
For the Garden of Your Daily Living

Plant Three Rows of Peas
- Peace of Mind
- Peace of Heart
- Peace of Soul

Plant Four Rows of Squash
- Squash Gossip
- Squash Indifference
- Squash Grumbling
- Squash Selfishness

Plant Four Rows of Lettuce
- Lettuce be Faithful
- Lettuce be Kind
- Lettuce be Patient
- Lettuce Really Love One Another

No Garden is Complete Without Turnips
- Turnip for Meetings
- Turnip for Service
- Turnip to Help One Another

To Complete Our Garden We Must Have Thyme
- Thyme for Each Other
- Thyme for Family
- Thyme for Friends

Water freely with patience and cultivate with love.
There is much fruit in your garden because you reap what you sow. Pass it on!

Baptism

March 31, 2019 by Rev. Shannon Wall
Olive Elizabeth Wright, daughter of Walker and Rachael Wright

Sunday Bulletins

Articles are due to Nicole Henderson nhenderson@nmchurch.org by Tuesday for the weekly Parish Notes.
Social Concerns and Missions Committee

Our congregation is actively involved with the Church World Service Blanket Program. For many years, our church has been helping to keep our neighbors warm by providing blankets to families here in the United States and around the world.

A warm Mother’s Day gift – each $10.00 donation to Church World Service provides a special blanket to those who have been displaced by disaster. It brings with it a message of warmth for the body and the gentle comfort of knowing someone somewhere cares. Make your gift in honor or in memory of your mother, grandmother or another special woman in your life. Mother’s Day cards will be available at Coffee Hour April 28, May 5, and Mother’s Day, May 12.

Men’s Breakfast

On Saturday, May 18 we’ll begin cooking at 7:45, so that we’re ready to eat at 8:30. Bring a friend if you’d like, and pot-luck contributions are always welcome. Please contact Dan Martin for more information, or to be added to the email reminder list. daniel.k.martin@gmail.com
Message to the Congregation:

The entire congregation is being asked to participate in the first step of this process: a congregational survey. This assessment is of your current experience at church - how you feel today, and will provide a clear picture of who we are as a church and what direction is most important for our future.

The tool we're using for this survey is the Congregation Assessment Tool, administered by HolyCow! Consulting. This will provide key indicators of our congregational health, along with areas of challenge and potential growth. It will also help us to collect and understand the range of views that exist at the First Congregational Church of New Milford and provide direction for the future of our ministry.

Please know that all survey responses will be kept strictly confidential. The survey is open now, and will remain open through Sunday, May 19. We encourage every member of your family to participate. The online survey may take 30 minutes or more to complete and must be completed in one sitting. If that would prove to be a challenge for you, please pick up a paper copy from the side vestibule in the sanctuary building (there is a drop box there, too, for completed surveys).

Your input through this congregational assessment is essential in guiding this selection process. Thank you for your participation as we, with God's help, look ahead toward building our church's future together!

Blessings,
The Pastoral Search Committee: Jason Davis, Bill Jackson, Barbara McGiver, Rev. Pat Nicholas, Scott Steele, Allen Holcomb, Jessica Baranowski, Jessica Menkees, Susan Chapin, Sarah Rose Albright, Mike Curley, Doris Papp

Healing Circle

Healing Circle will be held the second Friday of every month. The next meetings will be on May 10 and June 14 in the Auditorium of the Parish House. This healing circle is free of charge, and open to all.
**Investment Committee**

The investment accounts continue to improve as the stock market continues its recovery. The increase across all five accounts is 7% through March. The accounts include Endowment Fund, Investment Fund, SJ Johnson Fund, Scholarship Fund, and Maintenance/Raise the Roof.

Now that taxes have been filed for 2018, it is a good time for financial planning. If your planning includes creating or updating your will, please consider including our church. Specifically naming the church will ensure that your wishes are followed.

Another option to consider is donating highly appreciated stock to meet your pledge or to help our endowment fund. This will save you from paying capital gains if you were to sell the stock, and the church will receive the full benefit of the value of the stock. This, of course, works for any appreciated investment such as mutual funds.

If you have questions about legacy giving or stock donations, please contact our committee at investmentcommittee@nmchurch.org. Be sure to discuss these options with your financial advisor.

_Dave Elmore, Chair_

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**Offerings / Pledges**

For those of you who checked off on your pledge form that you wanted envelopes, they are in the back of the Sanctuary. When using envelopes, please be sure to write your name and/or number on them! If you have any questions regarding your General Fund giving, feel free to email Deb Staib, Financial Secretary financial@nmchurch.org; for Raise the Roof contribution questions, please contact Evelyn LeCates treasurer@nmchurch.org
Remembrance Sunday, May 26

**Book of Remembrance:** Memorials given to the Book of Remembrance by our church family and friends will be dedicated in memory of those dearest to their hearts. Contributions are put into a special fund and are used to enhance the beauty of the church and its spiritual ministry. Donations may be sent in any time of the year to the church office, in care of the Book of Remembrance. Those gifts received later than **May 5** will be dedicated in November. The list will be posted on the bulletin board by the side door entrance of the church, on **May 19**, for review.

**A Russell Ayre Scholarship:** With your generous support we are able to offer financial assistance to deserving college students. Donations of any size may be sent in any time of the year to the church office, in care of the Scholarship Committee. Please indicate who your gift is in memory/honor of, as well as to whom an acknowledgement should be sent. Those gifts received later than **May 5** will be dedicated in November. The list will be posted on the bulletin board at the side door entrance on **May 19** for review.

Please make check payable to: **The First Congregational Church**

   Memo: Book of Remembrance OR A. Russell Ayre Scholarship

(Please note: A. Russell Ayre Scholarship and The Book of Remembrance are two separate accounts.)

The Trustees have scheduled our annual Spring Clean-up for **Saturday, May 4**. We'll start at 9 am and hope to be done by noon. There will be a variety of tasks - please come for part or all of the morning. Thank you for any time you are able to give and we look forward to seeing you then!
Lay Readers

If you would like to be a scripture reader for a Sunday service, please email Nicole or call the church office.

Music Committee

Thanks to the Senior Choir and Sarah Fay for the extra rehearsal hours preparing for Easter week services. In addition to Palm Sunday and Easter, the choir also sang at the Maundy Thursday service.

The Village Ringers bell choir played two pieces at the March 31 service. On April 7 a small group played from the balcony during communion. On April 14 another small group played a response after the Lord’s Prayer. Another group played on the front steps on Easter Sunday.

Sarah Albright arranged for a group of bell players to perform two public performances. On Saturday, April 20, they played at Candlewood Valley Care Center. And on April 30, they performed as part of a library program. Thanks to Sarah for organizing the outreach performances.

The bell choir will conclude its season playing at the service on Mother’s Day.

Dave Elmore, Chair
**Steeple**

We hope that everyone enjoys the convenience of having our newsletter available online. This saves hundreds of dollars in the church budget, as well as helping our environment by using less paper, ink and other precious resources. Hard copies will be available in the back of the Sanctuary, side entrance of church and in the Parish House hallway. Please contact Nicole Henderson at the church office if you need to make different arrangements.

Please save the Calendar page at the front of each issue for reminders of upcoming church meetings and events.

The next issue of The Steeple covers the months of June, July, and August. Articles covering activities during the summer should be sent to Jan Wittmann (steeple@nmchurch.org) by **Wednesday, May 15** for inclusion.

**Baby Bundles**

Baby Bundles is a program which each month provides diapers to families in need in New Milford. Our church supports this mission through the collection of money and diapers on the 2nd Sunday each month. Please consider bringing packages of diapers and/or baby wipes to the church for collection, or make a monetary donation using the envelope provided in the bulletin.

If you have any questions please contact Jan McCarthy, Baby Bundles Chairperson, at jmccarthy101@sbcglobal.net. Help is needed to supervise the double doors in the Parish House from 4:30 - 5:30 PM on Baby Bundles distribution Wednesdays. If you have the time to volunteer, please contact Jan McCarthy or call Nicole Henderson at the Church office. Thank you!
**Constant Contact**

The Board of Deacons publishes an e-mail newsletter periodically to the congregation. The First Congregational Church of New Milford Happenings tries to highlight upcoming events and dates within the church. It does not replace the content of The Steeple sent to you via the U.S. Postal Service. If you currently do not currently receive this via e-mail and would like to, please e-mail fccnm10@gmail.com to be added to the mailing list, or call the church office with your updated e-mail address. Thank you.

**Planned Giving**

That's the name that has come to be associated with gifts to your church or other charity that happen after your lifetime. Simply put, you plan now, for a gift that will occur later. In our church, we recognize those who have declared they have arranged for a planned gift by receiving them as members of the Deacon Roger Sherman Society. (We also give special recognition to our Sunday School Teachers, our Deacons, the people who help collate and mail the Steeple, and so on.)

There are many ways to make a planned gift, and depending on your unique circumstances, some methods are better for you and for the church than others. Contact the Church Office for more details. The simplest and most direct way to make a planned gift is to include the church as a beneficiary on your life insurance policy. Your insurance agent can guide you on the specific forms and options available from your insurance company. Just tell them you want to add a beneficiary; the agent will take it from there.

When you have arranged your planned gift, be sure to let one of our Pastors know – no details, just that you made arrangements – so we can appropriately recognize your generosity. For your convenience, you may use the form below.

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**THE DEACON ROGER SHERMAN SOCIETY**

A gift to First Congregational Church of New Milford is in my (our) estate plans.

☐ Yes! Please count me (us) as a Member of The Deacon Roger Sherman Society.

Please Print Name(s) as you would like them to appear on recognition documents

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Emergency Shelters

A reminder from CERT, New Milford’s Community Emergency Response Team: During a widespread power failure or other town emergency, would you know how to find out if an emergency shelter is open and where it is? It’s easy – just call 2-1-1. The shelter will provide meals and a safe place to sleep, but there are some things you should bring with you. You will need emergency contact and medical information, a blanket and pillow, clothes for a couple of days, personal hygiene items, medications and some food items if you have dietary restrictions. Make sure you bring medical necessities such as glasses, walkers, hearing aids, etc. And don’t forget to pack something to occupy your time, like reading materials, cell phones, games or crafts. It’s always good to have a packed bag ready to grab and go in any emergency but especially now as we head into winter weather. Be prepared – stay safe!

Food Pantry

Non-perishable foods are gratefully accepted, but cleaning supplies are also needed. Government subsidies do not cover the purchase of laundry detergent or basic home cleaning products. Also appreciated are personal care items. If you travel, and do not use the little bars of soap and bottles of shampoo provided by hotels, please take and donate them! You may leave donations in the hutch by the side entrance to the sanctuary, and they will be brought to the New Milford Social Services office for distribution to those in need. The first Sunday of each month is Food Pantry Sunday - there are envelopes tucked into the bulletins for monetary contributions as well.

Please see the following page for additional information and suggestions.
Thank you for donating to The New Milford Food Bank. We hope you will help us with our effort to stock our shelves with healthier food options.

**LOW SODIUM**
- Less than 140 mg for VEGGIES
- Less than 200 mg for BEANS
- Less than 480 mg for SOUPS/BROTHS

**LOW SUGAR**
- No added sugar or syrup to canned fruits & vegetables
- Less than 6g for CEREAL

**LOW FAT**

**WHOLE GRAIN**

**NATURAL**

**GLUTEN-FREE**

**ORGANIC**

**No HYDROGENATED OILS**

Please consider before buying:

See below for complete List of Needed Items

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[Accepting Donations of New or Gently-Used Reusable Shopping Bags]

Thank you for donating to The New Milford Food Bank. We hope you will help us with our effort to stock our shelves with healthier food options.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Canned Fruit in Natural Juice</th>
<th>Macaroni &amp; Cheese</th>
<th>100% Fruit or Vegetable Juice (bottle or lunch box size)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Canned Soups/ Broth</td>
<td>Seasoned Rice/Pasta (i.e. Rice-Roni / Near East)</td>
<td>Shelf Milk 1%-2% Fat</td>
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<tr>
<td>Canned Vegetables</td>
<td>Natural Peanut Butter or Other Nut or Seed (Sun) Butter</td>
<td>Coffee or Tea</td>
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<tr>
<td>Canned Beans</td>
<td>Fruit Spread/Jelly/Jam</td>
<td>Hot Chocolate</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bagged Beans</td>
<td>Cereal and Oatmeal</td>
<td>Water</td>
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<tr>
<td>Canned Meals (Ravioli/ Stews/ Chili)</td>
<td>Pancake Mix/Syrup</td>
<td>Dessert/ Bread Mixes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lentils or Barley</td>
<td>Condiments (Mustard..Ketchup..etc)</td>
<td>Baby Food / Formula</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quinoa</td>
<td>Baking Ingredients [i.e. Flour..]</td>
<td>(Limited space for: Eggs / Milk / Butter / Fresh Fruit / Vegetables)</td>
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<tr>
<td>White or Brown Rice</td>
<td>Salad Dressing</td>
<td>Personal Care Items</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wild Rice</td>
<td>Spices/ Herbs/Oils</td>
<td>Paper Goods</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pasta</td>
<td>Granola Bars</td>
<td>Diapers</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jar Sauce</td>
<td>Crackers</td>
<td>Household Cleaners</td>
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<tr>
<td>Diced Tomatoes</td>
<td>Baked Chips/Gold Fish</td>
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<tr>
<td>Canned Tuna, Salmon, or Chicken</td>
<td>Dried Fruit [i.e. apples..raisins]</td>
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Annual Church School Service & All Church Picnic

Sunday, June 9th

This service includes every class, from the three year olds through our high school students. Each class will prepare for this day during church school. The congregation can expect a fun and surprising interpretation of worship especially our sermon, which is written and presented by; “Coffee House Crew”.

Immediately following the service, ALL church members are invited to the “All Church Family Picnic” on the New Milford Green. We ask that each family bring a side dish to share. Please come to church in your picnic clothes (or your church t-shirt) and be ready for some great food, fun games and lots of fellowship.

Sign-up for the 5th Annual “Corn Hole” Tournament. Don’t forget to bring your best dessert for Fellowship’s Best Dessert Challenge!

Sunday, June 9th is also Baccalaureate and A. Russell Ayre Scholarship Sunday!
Vacation Bible Camp!
June 25-28, 2019
Ages 3 – 6th grade

Gear up! Get Ready! Game On!

Hey kids!!!
Grab your megaphones, lace up your cleats, and tune up your instruments. Come and fill up the offensive line, sideline, and drum line; become players, cheerleaders, and band members and realize God has given you His ultimate playbook.
He wants your child to join His team, train hard, celebrate salvation, and encourage one another.
Get in the spirit today and attend Game On VBS.

Volunteers Needed!!!
Adults and youth:
From decorating, crafts, snacks, games or leading a crew!
If you are interested please let Becky or Carol know by June 1st!
*Your child must be entering the 7th grade or older to be a “helper”.

Please see Carol McKay or Becky Passero for more information.

Registrations now available in the church office and online at www.nmchurch.org

Summer Church School
begins June 16th!
An All Ages will meet in the Taylor Room each week for lessons and crafts. Come join the fun!
June 25—28, 2019
9am-1pm—Lunch Provided

Registration open to children Age 3 (fully potty-trained) to 12 years old.

Location: New Milford Congregational Church Parish House, 36 Main Street, NM

Cost: $35 for one child, $63 two children, $81 for three or more.

Mail Registration Form to VBS Director,
Carol McKay 32 Caldwell Drive, New Milford, CT 06776. Please use one registration form per family.

Cash or checks payable to FCCNM (Scholarship available)
Children will be placed in multi-age crew. Friend requests accepted.

Registration Deadline June 4th.
(All T-Shirt orders must be received by registration deadline)

Join us for this week full of Bible Stories, new songs, fun games, crafts and new friends!
Our fee includes a t-shirt, daily snack, daily craft, program supplies

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<th>Parent/Guardian Name</th>
<th>Phone</th>
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<th>Home Church</th>
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<th>Emergency Contact Name &amp; Phone</th>
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<th>Physician Name &amp; Phone</th>
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<tr>
<th>Child(ren) Info:</th>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Last Name</th>
<th>First Name</th>
<th>Birth Date</th>
<th>Last Grade Completed</th>
<th>Youth Shirt Size</th>
<th>Place my child with:</th>
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Important Medical info: My child has: (circle) Autism, ADHD, ADD, Peanut/Nut Allergy, Asthma, Diabetes, other

We often take photographs during VBS events that may be used in publicity, (bulletin, newspaper, website, FB) AND will “Live Stream” from our website.
Please indicate if you DO NOT want your child’s picture used:

***I hereby agree to release all parties affiliated with Vacation Bible School for any liabilities arising from my child(ren) participating in this program.

Parent/Guardian Signature
All registration forms must be mailed directly to the VBS Director at address above

***See back for Volunteer opportunities!!!***
Volunteer Opportunities (entering 7th grade—adult)—
Please check one (1) of the spaces below:

Adult Volunteer Name: ________________________________________________

Middle and High School Volunteer Name: ______________________________ Age:____
***Youth spots fill quickly, so sign up soon to avoid being wait-listed

Parent Signature ____________________________________________________
(Your child will be asked to store their cell phone/device safely in the CE Director’s Office each day)

I can help DURING Vacation Bible School week as a staff member (you don’t have to be here all 5 days just let us know which days you can commit to)

ALL_____ Monday_____ Tuesday_____ Wednesday_____ Thursday_____ Friday_____

___ Crew Leader—Adults and teens 15 and older for small group of campers.
   Responsibilities include overseeing your small group, being attentive to a child’s needs
   and getting them to their scheduled activities on-time (grade preferred, but not guaranteed___)

___ Activity Assistant (Adult or Teens) - Please circle all areas of interest to you
   Outdoor games, Daily Bible Story, Music, Crafts, Snack

___ Photographer—Take photos, print and mount on display board and prepare slideshow

___ Computer/IT Assistant—Make sure all laptop, projectors, tvs are running smoothly

___ Parish House Set-up and Decorating—begins in May (dates and times to be announced)

___ Parish House Clean-up—July 2 & 3, 2018 9am—12pm

*Please note that we will try to place you where you’d like but it’s not always possible.

Staff Shirt size: ___AS, ___AM, ___AL, ___AXL, ___AXXL

Youth volunteers need to be registered by June 4th
AND
attend an orientation...date TBD.