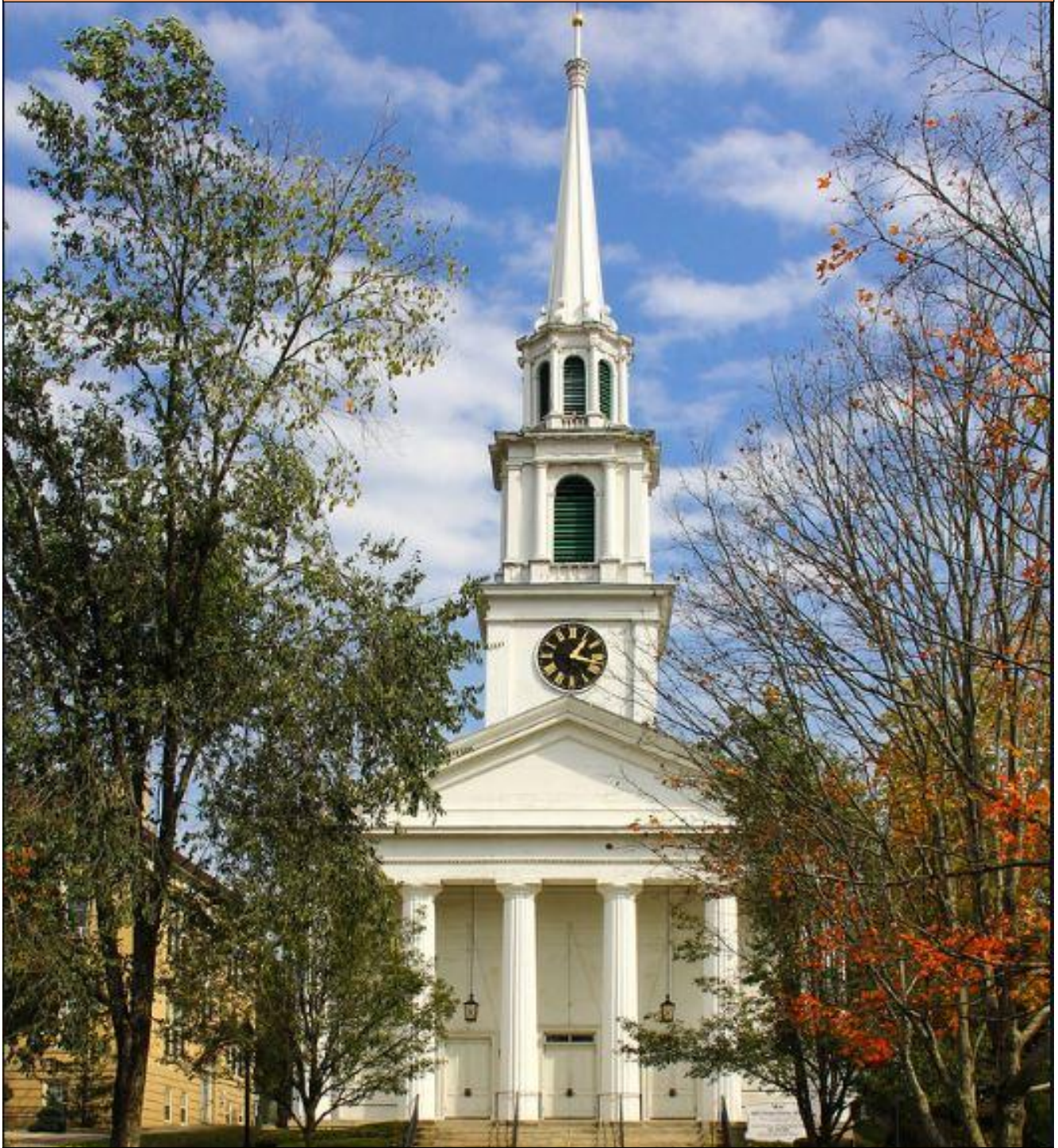
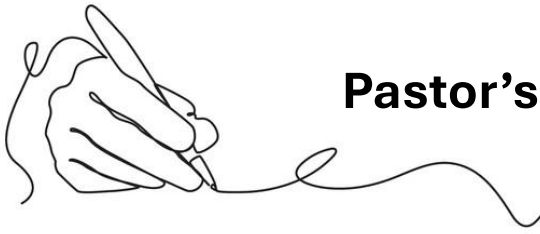


# The Steeple – April 2026



## **First Congregational Church**

36 Main Street, New Milford, CT, 06776  
860-354-8232 | [nmchurch.org](http://nmchurch.org)



## Pastor's Message

Dear Friends,

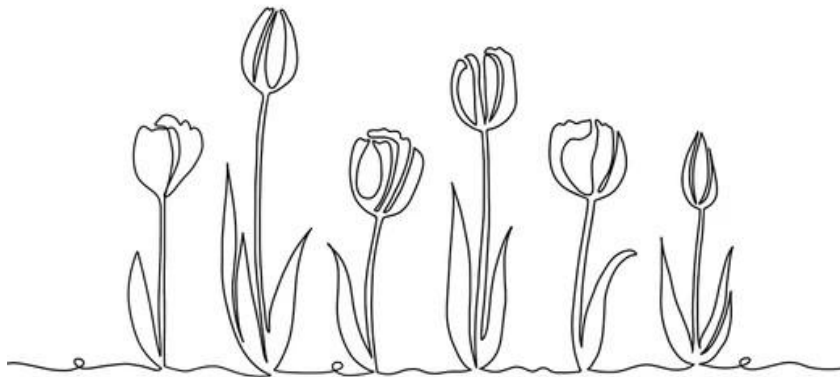
It was such a joy sharing in the Easter season with all of you. The two services on Easter Sunday radiated with the good news of Jesus' resurrection. I want to thank everyone who helped make Lent, Holy Week, and Easter so special and blessed.

We now enter the time of the church year that leads us to Pentecost. These fifty days after Easter remind us that the church's mission is tied to God's eternal promises to us. The resurrection of Jesus and the coming of the Holy Spirit enable us to follow where God leads us. As we hear the stories of the earliest followers of Jesus, we see ways in which, we, too, can live out our faith each and every day.

Spring also gives us the opportunity to shed the habits we developed in winter for new, life-giving activities. I invite you to see what is happening here at church over the next few months and see how you can join in.

Blessings,

Rev. Marie



## Looking Ahead

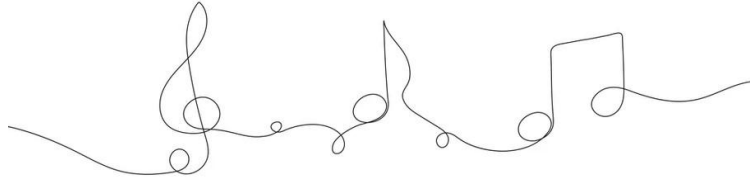
- April 26:** Music Sunday
- May 3:** Reception of New Member  
Annual Spring Meeting
- May 7-9:** Airing of the Quilts
- May 9:** Craft Fair, in the Parish House
- May 24:** Pentecost  
Book of Remembrance
- May 30:** Vacation Bible School registration deadline
- May 31:** Children's Day  
Church Picnic
- June 7:** Scholarship Day
- June 21:** Choir Sunday
- June 22-26:** Vacation Bible School
- July 18:** Church Tag Sale



### Christian Education

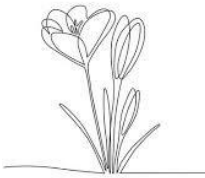


We are thrilled to share that our Church School is growing, with more children joining us each week! It has been a joy to see new faces, hear laughter in the halls, and watch our young members build friendships while deepening their faith. Looking ahead, excitement is already building for this summer's Vacation Bible School, featuring our "Snowball Mountain Challenge." We can't wait for a fun-filled, faith-centered adventure that will bring our children together for learning, laughter, and unforgettable memories. If you would like to help out or have any questions, please contact CE Director, Katie Johnson, at [cedirector@nmchurch.org](mailto:cedirector@nmchurch.org)



## **Music**

On Music Sunday the congregation is invited to experience the richness and diversity of our Senior Choir, Bell Choir, Cherub Choir, Soloists and Instrumentalists who have performed during the year. We will celebrate the joy and unity that music brings to worship, through hymns, anthems and scripture. On Choir Sunday the congregation will recognize and celebrate the time, talent and dedication that choir members give through the year.



## **Flower Committee**



The flower committee plays an important role in creating a welcoming and meaningful worship environment, through thoughtful arrangements. Their purpose is not only decorative, but symbolic by using flowers to mark the seasons of the church year. In doing so, they quietly support the church by bringing joy and a sense of care to the congregation by providing flowers for weekly worship.

Those who wish to donate flowers are warmly encouraged to participate in this meaningful ministry. Donations may be given in honor or memory of loved ones, to celebrate special occasions, or simply to support the beauty of worship. To contribute, individuals can sign up for a specific date on the flower chart located on the church bulletin board or through the church office with Carole at [czeigler@nmchurch.org](mailto:czeigler@nmchurch.org) or 860-354-8232.

## **Community Outreach**

### Souper Bowl of Caring

Thank you for the \$385 monetary donation to the New Milford Food Bank in February and all food donations made recently. We are so grateful to our friends and neighbors for giving back to our community and making programs like the Food Bank possible.

*-New Milford Social Services-*

### Homeless Shelter

During the month of February, the First Congregational Church provided a warm and safe space in Fellowship Hall for the Homeless Coalition. We look forward to offering our facilities and hospitality again next winter.

*-Building and Grounds Team-*

## **Church Life and Fellowship**

### Wednesday Study

The Lenten Study group decided to keep meeting. We are studying The Acts of the Apostles. We meet on Wednesdays at 10am in Room 3 of the Parish House. Please join us! If you have any questions, please contact Rev. Marie at 732-874-0528 or [revmarieb@nmchurch.org](mailto:revmarieb@nmchurch.org).



# April 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<b>1</b> Wednesday Study 10am Lunch & Learn 12:30 pm	<b>2</b> Maundy Thursday 7pm	<b>3</b> Good Friday Walk 12pm Egg Dying Craft 12- 2pm	<b>4</b>
<b>5 Easter</b> Sunrise Service 6am Worship 10 am Coffee Hour 11 am	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> Children Choir 4:30 Bell Choir 7 pm	<b>8</b> Wednesday Study 10am	<b>9</b> Choir 7:30 pm	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b> Worship 10 am Coffee Hour 11 am Chapel Stitches 11:30 am	<b>13</b> Women of the Bible Study Group 1 pm	<b>14</b> Children Choir 4:30 Bell Choir 7 pm	<b>15</b> Wednesday Study 10am	<b>16</b> Choir 7:30 pm	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> Men's Breakfast 7am
<b>19</b> Worship 10 am Coffee Hour 11 am Bible Study Class 11 am	<b>20</b> Women of the Bible Study Group 1 pm Church Council 6:30 pm	<b>21</b> Children Choir 4:30 Bell Choir 7 pm	<b>22</b> Wednesday Study 10am	<b>23</b> Choir 7:30 pm	<b>24</b> Women's Fellowship Craft 1 & 6 pm A. Russell Ayre Scholarship Deadline	<b>25</b>
<b>26 Music Sunday</b> Worship 10 am Coffee Hour 11 am	<b>27</b> Women of the Bible Study Group 1 pm	<b>28</b> Children Choir 4:30 Bell Choir 7 pm	<b>29</b> Wednesday Study 10am	<b>30</b> Choir 7:30 pm		

# May 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
<b>3</b> Worship 10 am Coffee Hour 11 am Reception of New Members Annual Spring Meeting	<b>4</b> Women of the Bible Study Group 1 pm	<b>5</b> Children Choir 4:30 Bell Choir 7 pm	<b>6</b> Wednesday Study 10am Lunch & Learn 12:30 pm	<b>7</b> Airing of the Quilts	<b>8</b> Airing of the Quilts	<b>9</b> Airing of the Quilts Craft Fair 9-5
<b>10 Mother's Day</b> Worship 10 am Coffee Hour 11 am	<b>11</b> Women of the Bible Study Group 1 pm	<b>12</b> Children Choir 4:30 Bell Choir 7 pm	<b>13</b> Wednesday Study 10am	<b>14</b> Choir 7:30 pm	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> Men's Breakfast 7am
<b>17</b> Worship 10 am Coffee Hour 11 am Bible Study Class 11 am	<b>18</b> Women of the Bible Study Group 1 pm Church Council 6:30 pm	<b>19</b> Children Choir 4:30 Association Meeting 5pm Bell Choir 7 pm	<b>20</b> Wednesday Study 10am	<b>21</b> Choir 7:30 pm	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>24 Pentecost</b> Worship 10 am Coffee Hour 11 am Book of Remembrance	<b>25</b> Women of the Bible Study Group 1 pm	<b>26</b> Children Choir 4:30 Bell Choir 7 pm	<b>27</b> Wednesday Study 10am	<b>28</b> Choir 7:30 pm	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>31 Children's Day</b> Worship 10 am All Church Picnic						

# June 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>1</b> Woman of the Bible Study Group 1 pm	<b>2</b> Children Choir 4:30 pm Bell Choir 7 pm	<b>3</b> Wednesday Study 10am Lunch & Learn 12:30 pm	<b>4</b> Choir 7:30 pm	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b> <b>Scholarship Sunday</b> Worship 10 am Coffee Hour 11 am	<b>8</b> Woman of the Bible Study Group 1 pm	<b>9</b> Bell Choir 7 pm	<b>10</b> Wednesday Study 10am	<b>11</b> Choir 7:30 pm	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> Worship 10 am Coffee Hour 11 am Chapel Stitches 11:30 am	<b>15</b> Woman of the Bible Study Group 1 pm Church Council 6:30 pm	<b>16</b> Bell Choir 7 pm	<b>17</b> Wednesday Study 10am	<b>18</b> Choir 7:30 pm	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> Men's Breakfast 7am
<b>21 Choir Sunday</b> Worship 10 am Coffee Hour 11 am Bible Study Class 11 am	<b>22</b> Woman of the Bible Study Group 1 pm Vacation Bible School	<b>23</b> Vacation Bible School	<b>24</b> Wednesday Study 10am Vacation Bible School	<b>25</b> Vacation Bible School	<b>26</b> Vacation Bible School	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> Worship 10 am Coffee Hour 11 am	<b>29</b> Woman of the Bible Study Group 1 pm	<b>30</b>				