**A person raising their fist in the air

AI-generated content may be incorrect.**

**First United Methodist Church**

8 Church Street, Stafford Springs, CT 06076

**April 27, 2025, Sunday 10AM**

**Worship Leader today, Kathy Aborn**

**Preaching today, Jacob Ives**

Reverend Dr. Thomas Bentum, pastor

*\*Please stand if you are able.* **Bold print = in unison.**

*Hearing assistance devices are available from our ushers.*

**LARGE PRINT BULLETINS ARE AVAILABLE.**

**Prelude:** Benjamin Stayner

**Introit:** Praise Choir

**Welcome:** Kathy Aborn

**\*Opening Prayer:** Kathy Aborn

**\*Hymn:** “Ye Servants of God” **UMH #181**

**\*Psalter:** Psalm 150 (UMH 862, response 1) Leroy Atkins

**Anthem:**

**Prayers of the People:** Kathy Aborn

**The congregation Responds: Lord hear our prayers.**

**Please join me in our Lord’s Prayer: Our Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen. Response to Lord’s Prayer:**

**\*Hymn:** “Breath on Me, Breath of God” **UMH #420**

**Scripture Reading:** Acts 5:27- 42 pew Bible p.774

Liturgist, Leroy Atkins: This is the word of God. **Response: Thanks be to God.**

**Message:** “The Fruits of Boldness” Jacob Ives

Qr code

Description automatically generated**Our Offering:** Benjamin Stayner

**\*Doxology:** “Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow” **UMH#95**

**Announcements:** Kathy Aborn, Lay Leader

Birthdays: Carol Bernier, Molly Merritt, Pastor Tom

**\*Hymn:** “We Walk by Faith” **FWS #2196**

**\*Benediction:** Leroy Atkins

**\*Benediction Response:**"God Be With You" UMH #672 – vs 1 and Refrain & Amen **God be with you till we meet again; by his counsels guide, uphold you, with his sheep securely fold you; God be with you till we meet again.** *Refrain:* **Till we meet, till we meet, till we meet at Jesus’ feet; till we meet, till we meet, God be with you till we meet again. Amen.**

**\*Postlude:** Benjamin Stayner

Reading for Sunday, May 4, Acts 9:1- 6

**Our FUMC Ministry Team Members**

Reverend Dr. Thomas Bentum, pastor, Minister of Music: Benjamin Stayner, Office Administrator: Connie Fogarty, AV Team Members: Gary Symonds, Butch Hajosy, **Praise Choir:** Malisa Buchanan, Laurie Dillon, Steve Jacobsen, Rose Roszczewski, Gary Symonds, Katie Buchanan, Deneane Bentum, Abby Buchanan, Patricia Grant, Gabrielle Buchanan, **Men of Faith:** Leroy Atkins, Steve Jacobsen, Gene Panciera, Al Higgins, Doug Fassett, Custodians: Donna Lee, Russell Toney, Flower Ministry: Jen Malack, Treasurer: Lisa Smith, Communion set up: Debbie Beverage

**Our Participants today: Jacob Ives: Preaching, Kathy Aborn: Worship Leader,**

Ushers: Jeff Aborn, Jim Heintz, Greeter: Anita Ludwig, Liturgist: Leroy Atkins, Counters: Joan Johnson, JoAnn West, Coffee Hour: Anita Ludwig, Loretta Kearns

**Next Sunday, May 4 Communion***:* Ushers: Leroy, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, Greeters: Marty & Molly, Liturgist: Anita, Counters: Jen, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, Coffee: Betty, Joan, JoAnn, Communion Servers: Kathy, Debbie

**May 11:** Ushers: Jeff, Peg, Greeters: Charles, Anita, Liturgist: Deneane, Counters: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Coffee: Anita, \_\_\_\_\_\_

Easter 10am Worship Attendance: 50in person, NH online. (2023 = 63, 2024 = 85)Monday 5pm Fellowship Meal = NH Monday 6:30pm Disciple Bible Study =NHTuesday online Bible Study 6pm = 7 Men’s Bible Study 4/16 at 6:30pm = 9

Women’s support group on Wednesday = 9 Woman to Woman =

Holy Thursday: 2023 = 30, 2024 = 27, **2025 = 15**

Easter Sunrise: 2023 = 61, 2024 = 40, **2025 = 30**

\*no count given to office. NH – not held this past week

**A close up of a logo

Description automatically generatedChurch Office Hours:** Connie Fogarty, Office administrator

Monday, Tuesday & Friday 9am – Noon Wednesday & Thursday 9am – 2pm Connie is off May 1 -9

**860-684-2468 Email:** [**officefumcstafford@gmail.com**](mailto:officefumcstafford@gmail.com)

**OUR WEB SITE: fumcstafford.org**

**8 Church Street, Stafford Springs, CT 06076**.

**Rev. Dr. Thomas Bentum, pastor Parsonage# 860-684-2657**

**Email:** [**pastorfumcstafford@gmail.com**](mailto:pastorfumcstafford@gmail.com)

**A blue and white sign with a person in a wheelchair

Description automatically generated**Our Mission Statement: We, the people of First United Methodist Church of Stafford Springs, are in mission. It is our aim to reach out in genuine acceptance, welcoming people into a growing, life-giving relationship with God in Jesus Christ through vital worship, warm fellowship, and careful attention to people’s needs.

A qr code with a dinosaur

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Follow us on Facebook!

Connie will be on vacation

May 1 – May 9

The May 4 & May 11 bulletins and power points will need to be printed & completed by April 30.

Please have all your submissions for **BOTH the May 5 & May 9 bulletins into the church office by APRIL 29th**.

They will be printed on April 30th.

A banner with mountains in the background

AI-generated content may be incorrect.Next Sunday, May 4, 2025, there will be a special offering envelope in your bulletin.

Your gifts on Native American Ministries Sunday help support the ministries of the Committee on Native American Ministries in their annual conferences. This offering serves to remind United Methodists of the gifts and contributions made by Native Americans to church and society.

**THIS WEEK’S SCHEDULE**

**Today** is April 27, 2025, 10:00 Sunday Worship & Coffee fellowship after

**Monday**

5:00pm Fellowship Dinner – free will offering

6:30pm Disciple II

**Tuesday** **DEADLINE FOR May 4 & May 11 Bulletins/power point**

6:00pm online Bible Study

6:00pm Men of Faith Rehearsal

6:30pm Praise Choir Rehearsal

**Wednesday Bulletins for May 4 & May 11 will be printed today**

10:00am Grief Support for Women

11:00 am Community Lunch Flo’s

**2:00pm Church Council**

6:30pm Men’s Bible Study

**Thursday** Connie is out of the office May 1-9

10:00am Woman to Woman

**Friday** 4:00pm Community Dinner Flo’s *(Flo’s Friendship Kitchen #860-684-3418)*

6:15pm – 8:30pm Girl Scouts Meet in Fellowship Hall

**Saturday – May 3 9:30am Women’s Ministry**

**Next Sunday: - May 4** 10am Communion Worship, Native American Ministries Sunday (special offering taken), Coffee after worship

**11am Worship Team Meets**



*Prayers will run for 4 weeks – contact the office if you need someone placed on the list. 860-684-2468 or* [*officefumcstafford@gmail.com*](mailto:officefumcstafford@gmail.com)

Riley Pickering & family, Lori Giedraitis, Cheri & Will Jobbins, Sandy Cinfo, Jackie Lambert, Angela Fitcher, Bob Hinke, Steve Jacobsen, Gerard Fogarty, Pastor Tom & Deneane, Barbara Paris, Paul Soucy, Emily Hart, Sue Lauzier’s sister-in-law, Kathy and also Sue’s coworker who has cancer.

Church Meetings

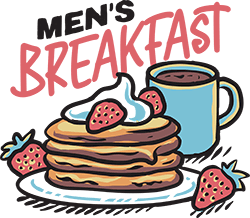
Church Council: April 30 at 2pm in Giller Room

**Worship Team: May 4 at 11am in Giller Room**



**SATURDAY, MAY 3, 2025 - 9:30 AM**

We reach out to all women to come and join us for a gathering which has a little of this and a little of that! During this meeting we will have a devotional, refreshments, and a time to chat with each other. For those who would like, we will participate in a plant swap: indoor plants as well as outdoor plants, and sharing of seeds as well. We will continue with a spring activity (which shall remain a secret). Be assured this activity will be fun and easy! You’ll just have to come and find out what I’m up to! Hope to see you all there! BLESSINGS! Kathy [abornk@yahoo.com](mailto:abornk@yahoo.com) or 860-684-9484 h 860-874-6697c



**Men’s Ministry Fellowship & Breakfast**

**Saturday, May 10, 2025**

**At 8:30am** ***at Vernon UMC.***

**A logo of a goat with a hat

AI-generated content may be incorrect.**FUMC is going to the Yard Goats game – **June 14, 2025**, game is at **6:10pm** and tickets cost **$25 each**. See Charles Williams to sign up and pay for your tickets. *Please pre-pay for tickets so Charles can go pick them up.*

Charles Williams #860-707-9433

**WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS**

**- – please let Connie know if you can fill in on a Sunday for any position that is open.**

**Anyone in the congregation can fill in a blank on any week. You will only be added to the weekly rotation if YOU request it. Thank you all for your service and support of your church.**

**May 4: Communion:** Liturgist: Anita

Greeters: Molly & Marty

Ushers: Leroy, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Coffee: Betty, Joan, JoAnn

Counters: Jen, \_\_\_\_\_

Communion: Kathy, Debbie

**May 11**: Liturgist: Deneane

Greeters: Charles, Anita, Ushers: Peg, Jeff

Coffee: Anita, \_\_\_\_\_\_,Counters: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**May 18:** Liturgist: Leroy

Greeters: Marty & Molly, Ushers: Jeff, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Coffee: Anita, Loretta, Counters: Jeff, Rose

**May 25**: Liturgist: Anita

Greeters: Leroy, Charles

Ushers: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Coffee: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Counters: Joan, JoAnn

**June 1 Communion:** Liturgist: Anita

Greeters: Marty & Molly

Ushers: Peg, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Coffee: Anita, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Counters: Jen, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Communion: Kathy, Donna

**June 8 Pentecost**: Liturgist: Deneane

Greeters: Leroy, Anita

Ushers: Jeff, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Coffee: Anita, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Counters: \_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**June 15: Father’s Day**

Peace with Justice special offering

Liturgist: Leroy, Greeters: Charles, Betty

Ushers: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Coffee: Anita, Loretta, Counters: Jeff, Rose

**June 22:** Pastor Tom’s retirement celebration

Liturgist: Anita

Greeters: Charles, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Ushers: Leroy, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Coffee: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Counters: Joan, JoAnn

**June 29: Anointing, Pastor Tom’s last Sunday**

Liturgist: Anita, Greeters: Marty & Molly

Ushers: Jeff, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Coffee: Anita, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Counters: Jen, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS -- If you have plans or vacation scheduled and will be away on a Sunday please let Connie know so she won’t schedule you to participate.*

Men’s Bible Study 6:30pm- 8pm in Fellowship Hall and will be held on every other **Wednesday** April 30, May 14, 28, June 11, 25

A logo for food and fellowship

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**Fellowship Dinners will continue**

**through June 30th.**

***May 26 we will NOT have dinner****.*

Join us at **5pm** – free will offering is taken.

See Gene or Leroy to help – extra hands are always needed.

A red and blue fabric with text

Description automatically generated

**Service Time 10am unless noted**:

May 4 Communion Native American Ministries Sunday offering/ May 11 Mother’s Day/

May 18 (IN PERSON) UM Student Sunday offering/ May 25 Anointing/ June 1 (IN PERSON)Communion Ascension/ June 8 Pentecost Sunday/ June 15 Peace with Justice Sunday offering/ June 22 Pastor Tom’s retirement celebration / June 29 Anointing Pastor Tom last service before retiring

July 6 Communion / July 13/ July 20/ July 27 Anointing/August 3 Communion/ August 10/ August 17/ August 24/ August 31/September 7 Communion/ September 14/September 21/ September 28

A brown paper bag with black text

Description automatically generatedSafe Net needs donations; Rice side dishes, Jelly/Jam, canned meals – spaghetti, ravioli, spaghetti o’s, hot & cold cereal, chili spice packets, soup, gluten free/sugar free/low sodium foods, Boost & Ensure drinks.\* \*There is a box under our mail cubbies.



**The May edition of “The UMC News” has been emailed to all who we have an address for. If you’d like a printed copy they are downstairs in the church entrance on the table.**

**ALTAR FLOWER SIGN-UP**

Please use the form below to sign up for weekly altar flowers to remember a loved one, celebrate a special occasion or anniversary, or honor someone special in your life by dedicating the altar flowers. Your dedication will be printed in the bulletin, and you are welcome to take the flowers home with you after the service. The cost of the flowers is **$15.00.** Please include the payment with the order form. For more information, please contact Jennifer Malack (860-420-6170). [jennifer.e.malack@gmail.com](mailto:jennifer.e.malack@gmail.com) Thank you!!!

Flowers given by: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

In honor of: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Or

In memory of: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

For Altar Flowers on Sunday:

(month)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (day) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**YEAR\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

A colorful logo with black text

AI-generated content may be incorrect.

AV Notes: May 18 and June 1 will be in person worship only.

If you are interested in this ministry stop by the AV area in the back of the church any Sunday and talk to Gary. The more volunteers we have the more we can offer online services on Sunday’s.

\*CELEBRATING PASTOR TOM’S RETIREMENT: JUNE 22, 2025

We are celebrating in three ways!

We want to show our love and appreciation as Pastor and Deneane head into retirement. So**, during the month of May we will be collecting monetary donations of thanks to** help them enjoy retirement in a special way of their choice. Please make all checks out to FUMC, making sure all checks and envelopes are marked ‘Pastor’s Retirement’ and put it in the collection plate or send it to the church office at 8 Church Street, SS, CT 06076. **Please send all in by June 1st**.

There will be a time towards the end of our service where we will present our monetary gift and offer a time for anyone who would like to speak about how pastor has touched their life, or give words of appreciation. Please limit to a minute or so, and let Kathy know **by June 1st**, if you’d like to be added to this time of sharing.

Following the worship service on June 22nd there will be a catered luncheon in Fellowship Hall. Please RSVP with the number of those attending to Kathy or Connie **by June 1st.** We hope you’ll be able to join us.

Kathy Aborn: 860.684.9484 h 860.875.6697c [abornk@yahoo.com](mailto:abornk@yahoo.com)

Connie at 860.684.2468 officefumcstafford@gmail.com

\*the complete information about this celebration is in your May edition of “The UMC News” our monthly newsletter. Connie will send it via email to those we have addresses for & there will be printed copies to pick up from the table in the church entryway downstairs.