

United Methodist Church East Greenwich

Open Doors Open Minds Open Hearts

JULY LINK 2023

July 2023 Newsletter Pastor's Page Films of Faith

Looking at ourselves through others' eyes; it's not anyone's favorite pastime. And often when our lives and history get portrayed in the popular media, it's not always what we'd consider flattering. But, films do provide an artistic appreciation of a particular place and time that can be useful, either because it helps us to see something that we've missed, or because it's so "off the mark" that our convictions are reaffirmed. Either way, we're going to be looking at ourselves as filmmakers have seen us this summer, trying to tease out the spiritual themes and stories that lie behind some of the theatrical portrayals of the human journey. We'll be spending the summer, ice tea and popcorn in hand, appreciating some (mostly older) motion pictures that have lessons to teach. All but two will have a connection of some kind to New England.

Our suggestion is that you rent and watch the film we're doing the week before the sermon is on that title. Not every part of the movie will be covered, obviously, but try to come away with a basic familiarity with the characters and themes. Even if you've seen it before, give it another look with an eye towards how God might be revealed in the narrative. Summer schedules being what they are, we won't try to set one time for everyone to watch it together, but please consider inviting a few church (and non-church) friends to view the film with you. You can use the Pastor's crazy suggestion as an excuse to practice fellowship and hospitality. Who knows, some of your friends just might want to "come and see" what the preacher will have to say on Sunday.

As you gain insights into each film, feel free to email me ideas for the sermon, and don't be surprised if you hear yourself quoted from the pulpit. So, I hope this will be fun, and give us some continuity as we go from one week to the next. I hope that you are preparing for a healthy and restorative summer. May the beauty of our amazing world surround you and do please save me an aisle seat.

Your fellow traveler,

Pastor Thome

Films of Faith, 2023 Edition

July 16: **Malcolm X** (1992), PG-13, \$4 to rent on Amazon, Guest Preacher
Keith Sanzen

July 23: **On Golden Pond** (1982), PG, \$2 to rent on Amazon. Psalm 130

July 30: **Cider House Rules** (2000), PG13, \$ 4 to rent on Amazon. Matthew 17

August 6: **The Parent Trap** (1998), PG, \$4 to rent on Amazon. Genesis 27

August 13: Guest Preacher / VBS Week

August 20: **Charlotte's Web** (2006, Live action version), G, \$4 to rent on
Amazon. Psalm 18.

August 27: **O Brother, Where Art Thou?** (2001), PG13, \$3 to rent on Amazon.
Isaiah 64.

Here's a guide to each movie and low or no-cost viewing options prepared
by Keith Sanzen:

<https://sites.google.com/view/filmsofatih/home>

Pastor Thom will have one week of vacation this month (7/3 thru 9) and one week of continuing education
leave (7/10 thru 16). In case of a pastoral
emergency, please contact the office (M to F, 9 to noon), one of the Lay
Leaders ([Don Gray](#) or [Leslie Pires](#)), or Staff-Parish Chair [Scott Sauer](#).

Summer Reading Suggestion:

Our Bishop, **Peggy Johnson**, has published a new book well worth your time:

Peggy Johnson, ***Ever-Expansive Spirit of God: Hope for All Who Feel Left Out***, 2023, ACTA
publications.

Perhaps sexual orientation and gender identity are the most controversial of all the issues in
family life today, and nowhere is it causing more tension and division than inside faith
communities of all faiths and denominations. Into this fray comes **Bishop Peggy A. Johnson** to
share her own remarkable experiences in a lifetime of ministry, which are at various times
painful, courageous, embarrassing, inspiring, sad, happy, and even humorous. Committed to
complete transparency, Bishop Johnson tells of her call to become a bishop; her marriage of now
forty-four years to her best friend and fellow ordained minister; their life together with their two
adult children; and the "precious secret" that is revealed to her in 2010. Bishop Johnson explores
her deepest thoughts, fears, sorrows, triumphs, and mistakes. "The debates around same-
gender marriage, sexual orientation, gender identity, and what it means to keep in a covenantal
relationship with fellow United Methodists of differing opinions is at the center of this book," she
says. "But it is also a personal story full of reflections on my journey as a Christian, a minister,
and a leader in the church."

Ministries for Children, Youth and Families Betsy Aulisio

Vacation Bible School will be from 9-12 the week of August 14-18th. Click here [VBS 2023 REGISTRATION](#) to register your child. If accessing the registration from a mobile device you will need to click the MENU dropdown in the top center of the page to access the registration page. Friends and neighbors are welcome so please share the registration link!

Applications are now being accepted for youth **VBS volunteer leaders (grades 7 and up)**. Please [complete this form if interested](#).

Download to listen to the music for Hero Hotline

<https://www.concordiasupply.com/music-cd-mp3-download-hero-hotline-vbs-2023>

The **MYF Youth Group** will be on their annual camping trip from **July 14th-July 16th**. Please pray for safe travels and great weather for these 20 youth and leaders.

Do you love to tell a good story? Education Ministries is looking for **STORYTELLERS** for our Summer Sunday School. The summer curriculum will feature 12 popular Bible stories. If you are interested in being a storyteller, please use the [sign up link](#)

Betsy Aulisio

Director of Ministries for Children, Youth, and Families
The United Methodist Church in East Greenwich
1558 South County Trail
East Greenwich, RI 02818
(401) 884-4221 - church
(516) 902-2625 - cell

We extend our sincere sympathy to the friends and family of:

Brian Mulvey

William Winters

Deloris Griffie
mother of
Susan Battista



The United Methodist Church in East Greenwich welcomes our new member **Patricia "Patty" Musto**.

The Sustaining Glass of Support

The participation from our stained glass auction on June 24th was astounding as we raised over **\$18,000** to support church ministries. This auction was the culmination of over four years of hard work and dedication from those who worked with the old stained glass from the Main Street Church from which we moved fifteen years ago.

Some items were original windows in the church that have been sitting in storage and were cleaned and restored by members. Other pieces were crafted from bits of broken glass and given new life in the form of angels, crosses, and creative shapes that were only limited to the imagination of those who beheld them. It was the perfect celebration of a ministry steeped in patience and love.

The main goal of the auction was to support the general ministry of the church and provide mission support for both local and international needs. The enthusiasm from those who participated in person, by proxy, or by phone was remarkable.

There are still a few larger stained glass pieces to be restored and a variety of smaller pieces that could be shaped into new forms. Although there is no set date for the next auction, the ministry team who have taken on this project will continue to preserve and care for the remaining pieces.

If you could not attend the auction, there are still ways to participate in the ongoing momentum to support the church's missions! There is still a chance to give to a church that makes sure all preschoolers have an opportunity for school no matter their family's income. There is still a chance to support a church that raises a pride flag beyond June. There is still a chance to support a church that welcomes and includes in a world that still pushes back to marginalize people for being themselves. There is still a chance to give to a church that provides food for the hungry and through our mission shares which helps support relief efforts wherever it is needed. There is still a chance to support a church that listens to the needs of others and dreams of new ways to help.

If you are proud of who we are as a church, please click on the link below so that the gifts it bears will continue to do good in the world. And when you give, make a note in the comment about what you are the most proud about our church. The chance you were looking for is here.

<https://www.methodistchurcheq.org/giving>

Thank you to all of those who helped at one time or another over the past four years cleaning or polishing glass, restoration work in Lincoln and making small copper foil pieces: Mary Margaret Antonelli, Jill Chirnside, SusanJo Couturier, Sue Cruise, Deb Diraision, Gay Dion, Judy Flock, Ann Ganung, Kim Holleran, Steve Huikko, Barb McCowan, Al Meyer, Deb Nagle, Carol Reale, Scott Sauer, Jill Vitko, and Beth Yerger.

Thanks to **Steve Huikko** for serving as chief auctioneer, to the Fellowship Team for refreshments and to all of those who purchased stained glass pieces. It was a wonderful event and we hope you all enjoy having a piece of the history of the Main Street East Greenwich United Methodist Church!

In Faith, Hope, and Love,

Keith Sanzen

**HUNGRY FOR FELLOWSHIP?
JOIN US FOR BREAKFAST**

Join us at **Cracker Barrel** at 825 Centre of New England Boulevard, Coventry on **Tuesday, July 18 at 9:00 AM** for BREAKFAST.

We will order off the menu and will receive separate checks. Good food, friends, fellowship and fun! RSVP to Linda Bergemann (H: 401-322-9946, M: 401-301-0808 or LBergemann@aol.com).

Music Tidings

The Methodist Church places great emphasis on hymn singing, having a foremost hymn writer in Charles Wesley, who wrote over 6,000 hymn texts. John Wesley collected his brother Charles' texts, along with others, and produced many hymnals, including *A Collection of Hymns for the Use of The People Called Methodists* (1780). Following the War of Independence in 1776, a majority of Methodist clergy in the United States met in Baltimore and established the Methodist Episcopal Church. From that time forward, many subsequent hymnals were compiled for use in Methodist churches, the last being our current *The United Methodist Hymnal*, the "official" hymnal of our denomination (our own Pastor Thom was involved in the process of selecting hymns for inclusion in this hymnal.) Other hymns and songs used in our services come primarily from *The Faith We Sing* (2000), *More Voices* (2007), and *Worship & Song* (2011).

On July 9, during a "hymn sing" portion of the service, you'll be able to request a favorite hymn from *The United Methodist Hymnal* and *The Faith We Sing* (both of which can be found under seats throughout the sanctuary). So be ready to call out the hymn number and, in the words of John Wesley, "sing lustily and with a good courage ... [and] have an eye to God in every word you sing."

Our Summer Choir rehearses accessible, meaningful music for worship at 9:00 a.m. each Sunday (30 minutes prior to the worship service). All are welcome to join us as many Sundays as you are able. The only requirement is the joy of singing!

News from the Missions Corner—Thank You and Help Needed

A continued thanks to our congregation for their continued generous support to our neighbors in need!

March Madness and April Showers Directed Giving

Thank you for your continued support for our monthly directed giving missions. In March, we collected new and used sports equipment and sneakers that were donated to Tides Family Services. They were very appreciative!

In April, we collected new and gently used raingear for adults and children that were donated to Mathewson Street UMC.

Mathewson Street

They are back doing their monthly breakfast, with our help on the fourth Sunday of every month. Please use sign-up genius to indicate you are interested in attending. It is a very moving and inspiring sight to behold! As of now they are in need of canned food items and granola bars. A collection box is in front of the church for these donations.

Open Closet

Thank you for your continued donations of clothing and small household goods. One thing to note is that they do not accept furniture or electronic items, so please bring those elsewhere (or save electronics until our event in September)!

Electronic Recycling

We will be holding an electronic recycling event in September, so please save those items until then.

Laura Wilkinson, Chair

Charlene Price visits with church members and friends and shares their stories.

I enjoy my visits with our church seniors so I have decided to share a few more of them with you. **Eleanor Brierley is Deb Nagel's mother.** I first met Eleanor at coffee hour at church when she attended with Deb. I later visited her when she moved into a care facility to a room down the hall from my mother. It is bitter sweet that I can no longer visit my mother as she has passed, but a joy to be with happy seniors who find strength to enjoy each day. Eleanor loved receiving the alter flowers and could not keep her eyes off the beautiful colors. She said she remembers having her own flower garden. I could tell she liked color from her bright red nail polish. I found her in the craft room when I arrived and after chatting awhile she asked me to walk with her to her room. She wanted the flowers placed close by her recliner to enjoy. Eleanor does not remember me, but she remembers how welcoming the church members made her feel when she visited with Deb and remembers how important it is to part of a group to worship. She said she was happy in her new residence and that people are taking good care of her and are always very nice to her. Eleanor says she enjoys the group activities and eating in the dining hall with others. She mentioned the kindness she receives a number of times. Her words reminded me that people of all ages notice and remember how we make them feel and what we say and do matters, and the importance of being part of something bigger than ourselves. I told Eleanor I would like to take her picture to share with the church and she offered a beautiful smile that radiates the warmth within her. God's Grace to our shut-ins.

Charlene Price





Come to the Garden of Grace

The Garden of Grace is blooming. A Big thank you to **John Pierson** for adding new plants to our church garden. Each year we try to add new plantings and this year the garden is blooming brighter than ever. Please stop by for a quiet moment. New plantings and additions are always welcomed.

Charlene Price
Sonya Morton Rainey

Congratulations!

"Our grandson, Jack Darby, graduated from Exeter (NH) High School. He will attend the Rochester Institute of Technology in the fall."

Jim and Ann Ganung

Summer Worship Schedule **9:30 AM**

During the summer, there will be no Coffee Hour. It will be missed, for sure. Plan now to help with coffee hour in the Fall.

Would you like to be more involved in the life of the church? What would you like to do?

Sing and/or play an instrument? Contact [Mona Stephens](#) or [Beth Yerger](#).

Get involved with children, Sunday School, VBS? Contact [Betsy Alisio](#)

Greet and welcome people? Contact [Bill Dehlman](#)

Usher and out bulletins, help with offering? Contact [Bill Dehlman](#)

Be an acolyte? Contact [Carol Wheeler](#)

Read the Call to Worship and Scripture? Contact [Carol Wheeler](#)

Set up for coffee hour? Bake or prepare snacks? Contact [Gay Dion](#)

Help with the many missions of the church? Contact [Laura Wilkinson](#)

Work in the garden? Contact [Charlene Price](#) or [Sonya Morton-Ranney](#)

Visit shut-ins? Contact [Charlene Price](#) or [Pastor Thom](#)

Maybe you have other ideas? Please share your thoughts.

**Chancel Flowers
A price reduction!**

Sunday flowers in the Sanctuary are a beautiful way to honor or memorialize loved ones. **We have a new florist and the weekly cost is \$40.** There is a signup book on the Welcome Table in the Narthex where you can sign up for a particular date.

The florist keeps costs down for churches by reusing **containers and vases**. If you have any extras (even if they did not come from them), you are welcome to leave them in the Narthex near the coat rack and they will be picked up weekly.

We Are a Reconciling Congregation

The **United Methodist Church in East Greenwich** strives to be a place of open hearts, open minds, and open doors. We believe in the commandment to **love our neighbor** and commit ourselves to be disciples rooted in compassion and caring for one another. We firmly support, welcome, and offer sanctuary to all people, including those of every gender identity, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, marital and socioeconomic status, age, faith history, education, and physical and mental ability into the full ministry of the church. While we recognize that there are differences among us, we believe that we can love alike even though we may not think alike. It is in this spirit that we invite all people to join us in our faith journey.



Next month's LINK

Articles and information for the **August 2023 LINK** should be sent to Bonnie Gray by **Friday, July 28th. Thank you!**

Birthdays

7/1 Deb Diraison
7/1 Emily Dowding
7/1 Leona June Jacob
7/2 Laurie Beckert
7/3 Jillian Caruso
7/3 Jodi Nichipor
7/4 Mary Louise Counnas
7/5 Steven Bush
7/5 Douglas Pickard
7/6 Jordan Medeiros
7/6 Kerry Nadeau
7/9 Aaron Brunelle
7/9 Lori Brunelle
7/10 James Marsella
7/11 Marcy McGiveney
7/13 Jaclyn Steen
7/14 Molly Behrends
7/14 Emily Paige Cronin
7/14 Kaeli O'Connell
7/15 Chelsea Andrews
7/15 Steve Huikko
7/15 Everett McEwen
7/15 Jason Kindschy
7/15 Emily Younkin
7/16 Jack Larson
7/17 Roberta Dowding
7/18 Lauren Lautieri

7/18 Logan Napolitano
7/18 Matt Wojtaszek
7/19 Zachary Humbyrd
7/19 Robert Olmstead
7/19 Keith Sanzen
7/20 Raymond Gervais
7/20 Leslee Sanzen
7/22 Ryder Hyland
7/23 Janet Larson
7/23 Danika Miskelly
7/23 Misty Mitchell
7/24 Abigail Smith
7/25 Audrey Cardones
7/25 Andrew Deutsch
7/25 Pamela Lezaeta
7/26 Emily Buterbaugh
7/26 Zachary Walbridge
7/27 Delores Maisonet
7/27 Joseph McGinn
7/27 Michael Palardy
7/28 Katherine Erickson
7/28 Joy Gregory
7/28 Lawrence Stanley
7/28 Robert Thurston
7/29 David Caldwell, Jr.
7/29 James Cogan
7/29 Jacqueline Cronin
7/29 Don Poirier
7/29 Leah Valente

Anniversaries

7/3 Scott & Jennifer Hyland
7/5 Albert & Harolyn Meyer
7/6 James & Ann Ganung
7/9 Brian & Monica Mays
7/11 James and Kerri Naughton
7/15 SusanJoe & Lionel Couturier
7/16 Nicholas & Leah DeCesare
7/23 Charles & Bonnie Sauer

Please e-mail or call the church office (egumc@aol.com or 884-4221) with any additions or corrections to the Birthday and Anniversary records. Thank you.

July 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2 9:30am Summer Service and Sunday School	3	4 Independence Day!	5	6	7	8
9 9:30am Summer Service and Sunday School	10	11	12 5pm Missions Meeting	13	14 1pm MYF Camping Trip	15 MYF Camping Trip
16 9:30am Summer Service and Sunday School MYF Returns from Camping Trip	17	18 Fellowship Breakfast at Cracker Barrel	19	20	21	22 9-11am Mathewson Street Pancake Production
23 9:30am Summer Service and Sunday School 6:30-9am Mathewson Street Friendship Breakfast	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					



*Join us for the best hour of the week.
9:30 A.M.*

Our 10AM Sunday Service is on Facebook and YouTube

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Pastor Thom Blackstone

Director of Ministries to Children, Youth and Families
Besty Aulisio

Office Manager
Erin Condit

Ministers of Music
Mona Stephens and Beth Yerger

Bookkeeper
Wendy Black

LINK Editor
Bonnie Gray

photo courtesy of **Matt Wronski**

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