



Hello All,

In an effort to have all church members aware of what is discussed at Church Council meetings and the decisions that are made, the minutes from the monthly minutes will now be sent to everyone. Included at the end of the minutes are the reports from the various committees that are submitted prior to each meeting.

Steve Kolitz

**NEW MILFORD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING**

June 16, 2026

Present: Steve Kolitz, Pastor Lee, Mike Hopp, Jerry Jones, Terri Hudak, Doreen Shea, Carolyn Nuzzi, Bonnie Knapp, Marlene Davis, Martha McMahon, Jan Parsons, Val Kolitz, Patty Jacobson

The meeting was called to order at 7:12 p.m., followed by an opening prayer by Pastor Lee.

Steve Kolitz: Fraud presentation is Tuesday, June 23 at 6:00 pm in Fellowship Hall. Everyone is encouraged to attend

Christmas in July BBQ – scheduled for Saturday, July 25 from 3:00 – 6:00 p.m.

- Steve has talked to Omaha Beef who will supply the meat (hamburgers, hot dogs, sausages/brats). Unused and properly refrigerated meat can be returned to Omaha Beef. Steve has talked to Jeremy Schulz and the Weed family for sweet corn.

- Potentially a car show that same day to draw people to the dinner.
- Men's Club – to set up tents, tables and chairs
- Possibility of live music – Steve will reach out to Chuck Samson to see if his son, Chris, could DJ that day

- Jan Parsons shared that she spoke with Deborah Rose who told her all publicity should be in poster form (no articles in the local paper anymore) and that the posters should be posted ASAP. If signs are going up they should be in 4 key locations: the police station, Route 7 north (site to be determined if being used), the church and at Boardman Bridge.

- Quantity of meat was determined: 4 boxes of hamburgers (at 40/box); 3 boxes of hot dogs (at 80/box), 2 boxes of sausages/brats

- Carolyn Nuzzi will get the permit for the dinner if needed

- Grillers: Mike Hopp, Steve Kolitz, Pastor Lee and possibly Tom Gaynor
- Salads: will be coordinated by Marlene Davis – potato salads, macaroni salads, NO green salads
- Dessert: watermelon
- Beverages: soda and water can be purchased at Costco
- Condiments: ketchup, mustard, relish; additional condiments: cheese, mayo, lettuce, tomatoes, onions – may be offered for a “deluxe burger”
- Cost to be determined by cost of meat from Omaha Beef; whether a deluxe burger will be offered, will corn and salads be ala carte?
- Other supplies: paper plates, forks, napkins, butter, salt and pepper and ice

Steve asked Council members for approval to send Council minutes out as a separate email once they have been approved. The minutes will also be posted on the church’s website. There was general approval to do so.

Steve asked everyone to walk through the upper level of the Education Center to look at the Tag Sale setup; a large quantity of items have already been donated; plus the furniture and supplies from the Education Center will be offered for sale. Val Kolitz, Terri Hudak, Doreen Shea and Mary Prause are working diligently to sort through the items and to place them in various rooms in the Ed Center. Banners will be needed announcing “OPEN” or “CLOSED” at the entrance to the church and to the Ed Center. More staff will be needed once the Boutique is ready to open. The realtor is aware that the space is being used for this endeavor should someone be interested in seeing the Ed Center space.

Mike Hopp: the food truck/vendor remains interested in using our kitchen and parking his truck(s) on our property; the vendor will be required to get the necessary permits from the town. This is all a work in progress.

Steve Kolitz:

- “Kitchen users” – kitchen was used in May by an outside source; this went well and the church received \$100 for the use of the kitchen
- Possibility of an All-Star Concert – Steve has talked to Chris Martirano – he was interested in helping organize this; a new location would have to be chosen (Arion Singing Society space is no longer available); perhaps Candlewood Valley Country Club
- The possibility of a church wide Talent Show in the fall was discussed
- Dates are set for the Haunted Trail/Scarybrooke; Steve is signing volunteers up now; discussion was held on appropriateness of the church being involved with Halloween/demons, etc. Pastor Lee feels our work as church members is a community service – we are serving as Christians, which is just as important as the money we make

•**There will not be a Church Council meeting in July**; Steve will be attending UMArmy that week with his granddaughters; **HOWEVER**, there will be a meeting with all who will be supporting the Christmas in July BBQ at a date to be announced

•”What’s in a name?” – would changing the name of our church have a positive impact on more attending; the example of the New Fairfield Methodist Church changing its name to “New Life Church” was given as an example. Food for thought – no discussion

Marlene Davis – RaiseRight needs to have more participation to make it worthwhile for income for the church

Pastor Lee – will be attending a Pastor’s summer retreat in Rochester, NY August 3-6; he will be on a business trip to San Francisco August 17-22 to publish the book he was asked to write: The History of the United Methodist Church in the Korean version.

The sanctuary prayer time at noon on Wednesdays will continue through the summer

Terri Hudak – “Safer Sanctuary” – perhaps a presentation at coffee hour in the future or a write up for the newsletter could explain this to all church members
There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Patty Jacobson, Recording Secretary

Committee reports for the June meeting:

Jerry Jones - Treasurer

1. Church Budget Deficit

Two new items were added to the Estimated church deficit for 2026;
Our monthly fee for Outside Accounting services was reduced from \$1,100 to \$600 reflecting the elimination of the Ed Center. This will have a favorable impact this year of \$4,920.

Snowplowing will be \$7,000 over budget. We were optimistic and set the budget at \$4,000 and in the 1st qtr we spent \$11,000.

So the revised budget deficit as we know it today is:

Budgeted 2026 deficit	\$(110,405)
Unfavorable giving	(160)
Ed Ctr subsidies	(38,000)
Unfavorable Snowplow	(7,000)
Favorable Outside Acct.	4,920

Revised 2026 est. deficit \$(150,405)

2.) Education Center

There has been no new activity for renting the Ed Center Space and work has begun to set up a Pop Up Boutique on the first floor to generate income. All expenses including Brightwheel have been stopped and with the air conditioning shut off the Ed Center is contributing to the build up of credits in our Eversource account which will benefit us next winter when we use more electricity than we generate.

Respectfully submitted,

Jerry

Carolyn Nuzzi - Evangelism

Evangelism Committee (report for May 2026 Activities)

Pentecost Sunday was celebrated as planned with devotion and fun. The worship service had the passing of the peace in many foreign languages. After service, fellowship had hearty make-your-own sandwiches, cake and ice cream and people were encouraged to sit at a table according to their birthday month and share their dreams and wishes.

Our committee will help with labor for the 250 th Church Supper on June 13, We also are planning to have a table at the NM Green on the July 3 rd celebration to be a fundraiser and to share the activities of our church.

Kimberly Rothen - Finance

I am in the process of wrapping up the audit of the church bank accounts. Everything is in order. I appreciate the efforts of all who have provided information to me.

Martha McMahon - SPR

SPRC will meet at 6:00 Tuesday before Council.

Terri Hudak - Sunday School

#1. Our S.S. attendance is low, however meaningful. The children are torn between attending their sport activities on Sunday or to be with our church. I'd like to suggest we discuss another day of the week to have a wild, "messy church" as our DS spoke about. I don't know how we can find the time of the week when this can happen, knowing how busy everyone is with work and school, however, everything is possible with our Lord. So I ask for your support of prayers and ideas.

#2. Ohyeun Lee, Lynn Singleton, Valorie Kolitz and I have volunteered to take part in the Congregational Church on the Green VBS, starting on June 22nd through 6/26. After speaking with Carol McKay, she is delighted to get our help. They have so many children registered they had to turn away some children! We will ask them to announce our VBS in hopes to encourage better attendance. Our church VBS will take place on August 10th-Aug 14th, 9am to 12noon. We will publicize more about it.

#3. I have reached out for a few adult male leaders in our church to take part in teaching for the Middle school age and older youth. They exemplify the Christian behaviors and communication skills we look up to for that age group. We continue to try our best to nurture and support our youth so they will become good Christian leaders. Tasks like creating a group project, helping in the food barn, serving as acolytes, communion stewards.

#4. Sunday, June 21st marks the end of our Sunday school year. I will recognize the children, Doorpersons and teachers who participated. There will be some absentees on that day as well, due to circumstances beyond our control. They will get their certificate via the mail.

#5. We will be referring to the sign-up sheet for volunteers to give a children's message.

I failed to check it a number of times because I was having to come up with a volunteer. From now on I will refer to the SIGNUP SHEET in the back of the church. Please consider sharing a little message with the children (5-10mins tops)!

Doreen Shea - Congregational Care

Nothing new to report
