***The order of service is** subject to change at the leading of **the Holy Spirit.**
Bold print invites congregational response in unison.
*Means you are **invited to stand** if able and comfortable.
Large print hymnals, large print bulletins, service script, pew cushions, and Listening Assistance Devices are available at the entry of the Sanctuary.
You are encouraged to check-in at NMUMC on Facebook & share recorded service.

WE GATHER TOGETHER

Prelude Harlan Otter

Welcome Joe Lopez

Welcoming Statement Together

Announcements

Words to Ponder Terri Hudak

God speaks from burning bushes and souls on fire. May God grant us eyes to see and ears to hear, as we worship this day.

Call to Worship Terri Hudak
Give thanks to the Lord.
Call on god's holy name.
Sing praises to the Lord.
Tell of God's wondrous deeds..
Let the faithful sing of the Lord's awesome power.
Let the hearts of the faithful rejoice.
Give thanks to the Lord.
Call on God's holy name.

Opening Prayer (in unison) Together
Great I AM, you come to us in unexpected ways. Excite our curiosity, that we might turn aside and realize we are standing on holy ground. Appear to us in fire and wonder, that we might see worlds beyond the reaches of our imaginations. Reveal the glory of your kingdom—where love is genuine, where evil is forsaken, where mutual affection abides, and hospitality is shown to strangers, where all are made one. Amen.

Lord's Prayer Together
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 and ever. Amen

***Hymn** "Lift High the Cross" UMH #159
CIP Page 11

Passing of the Peace of Christ Together

WE SHARE THE GIFTS

Invitation to the Offering Joe Lopez
As we bring our offering today, may we do so with hearts ready to follow—ready to serve, ready to love, ready to be part of God's healing work in the world.

Offertory Anthem Harlan Otter

***Doxology** UMH #95

***Offering Prayer (in unison)** Together
God of new beginnings, receive the gifts of our hands, that hospitality might be extended to those in need. Bless today's offering, that the hungry may be fed and the thirsty may be satisfied. May these gifts seal our commitment to do what is just and honorable in your sight. Amen.

WE HEAR THE WORD

Words of Illumination Terri Hudak
Illuminate this scripture so that we may understand not only the weight of discipleship, but also its promise—that in losing what holds us back, we discover the life Christ longs to give.

***Gospel Reading:** Mathew 16:21-28 Terri Hudak

21 From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and
undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes and be killed
and on the third day be raised. 22 And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him,
saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you." 23 But he turned and said to
Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me, for you are setting your mind not
on divine things but on human things." 24 Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any wish to come
after me, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. 25 For those who
want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. 26 For
what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give
in return for their life? 27 "For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his
Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. 28 Truly I tell you, there are
some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his
kingdom."
Reader: This is the word of God for the people of God.

People: Thanks be to God.

Reflecting on God's Message "What Will You Choose" Joey Lopez

Prayers of the People Joe Lopez

We Reach Out to the World

***Sending Hymn** **"**Standing on the Promises**"** UMH #374
CIP PAGE 23

***Benediction** Together

Live peaceably with others.
Hold fast to what is good. Honor what is just and show mutual affection for all.
Go with blessings of the almighty.
Amen

Postlude Harlan Otter

Event Announcements:

- **Worship Guest Speaker:** Welcome Joe Lopez (Lay Speaker of New Fairfield New Life UMC)
- **Worship Committee Meeting:** Tuesday September 1 at 7:00pm (DO)
- **Worship Service Back in the Sanctuary: Sunday September 13**
- **Rally Sunday/Backpack Blessing:** Sunday September 13; at 9:30am in the sanctuary
- **Adult Sunday School:** begins September 20 10:00 – 11:00 (DO)
    - **Textbook:** *"Social Principles of the UMC 2025–2028"* ($10)
    - **Duration:** 6 weeks (Open to both current and new members!)
- **Prayer Center:** The sanctuary is open every Wednesday 12:00 Noon to 1:00pm; a quiet hour set apart to pray for world peace.

Thirteenth Sunday After Pentecost

art.diocesan.com

08.23.26 | 9:00am

Chapel in the Pines

You are invited to worship with us in the quiet of prayer, in the joy of song,
and in the desire to grow in the grace and knowledge of our LORD Jesus Christ.
Part of our mission is to be a place for all people. All are welcome here!
Whatever your gender identity, age, race, religious background, economic status, sexual orientation or condition of ableness, we greet you as a beloved child of God.

Pastor Yongyeun Lee 203-969-5461; Email: yongyeunlee@gmail.com
Music Director, Harlan Otter | Liturgical Arts, Barbara Williams |Liturgist – Terri Hudak
Children's Participation: Acolyte and Bell Ringer
Ministers: *All members of the New Milford UMC*
Pastor's Office Hours: 9:00AM – 12:00PM, Tuesday through Friday
68 Danbury Road, New Milford, CT 06776 | www.newmilfordumc.org | 860.354.4596