



Church Chatter

April 2025

A publication of Ledyard Congregational Church, United Church of Christ

In This Issue

A Message from Pastor Pat	1
April Birthdays & Anniversaries	2
Pastor's Office Hours	2
Blessings for our Members who Serve	2
Holy Week Services	2
Church Calendar	2
LIECF	3
April Scripture Readings	3
Writing Group	3
Keep in Your Prayers	3
Help Honor the Class of 2025	3
April Community Supper	4
Take Care	4
Wednesday Morning Bible Study	4
Pancake Breakfasts	4
Lenten Study Group	4
From the Historian's Desk	5
Faith Formation & Sunday School	6
OWL	6
Meet Kristie, our Childcare Provider	7
Chatter on the Church Website	7
Chatter Deadline	7
Worship Readers	7
Missions	8
Peace & Reconciliation	9
Prostate Cancer Support Group	9
Volunteer's Come in all Sizes	9
Women's Fellowship	10
Strawberry Supper Update	10
Wednesday Book Study Group	11

Caps & Lids and Our Rainbow Bench	11
Memorial Day Parade	11
Social Justice Team	12
Prayer Box	13
Looking for Greeters	13
Clean-up Day	13
Easter Flower Order Form	13

A Message From Pastor Pat Getting to Know You (feel free to sing along)

Whether you have been coming to church for ages or are relatively new, getting to know people isn't easy. Coffee Hour provides time for chit chat, but it's not a great way to get to know people.

We want to change that. You are invited to join a small group! The purpose of the group is to get to know people in the church and build deeper community. Groups of 8-10 will gather in people's homes once a month for an initial commitment of six months. After that time members can decide if they want to continue.

Small group ministry is intentional, lay-led small groups that deepen and expand the ministry of a congregation. Two focal points are building community and providing an

opportunity for spiritual exploration and growth. Small group ministry is also called covenant group ministry because participants make an intentional commitment to each other to be present and participate.

Strong community and spiritual depth are two hallmarks of a healthy congregation. We all need companions in our faith journey and small group ministry provides that opportunity.

The small groups will form and convene after Easter. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board between the offices. Once participants have signed up, groups will be assigned by Pastor Pat, a facilitator will be chosen from each group and Pastor Pat will train them.

This is an exciting opportunity to grow in your life of faith and build strong relationships with people from LCC. I hope to see YOUR name on the sign up sheet!

Faithfully,
Pastor Pat

Ledyard Congregational Church wishes the following people happy birthdays and anniversaries and a blessed year ahead!



April Birthdays

Julia Austin	4/5
Lilyth Dozier	4/5
Andrea Barbour	4/8
Alicia (Ganz) Graves	4/10
Marge Wilson	4/11
Joan Jirsa	4/14
Ashley Kornatowski	4/15
Sara Holdridge	4/17
Steve Foltz	4/19
Tom Olson	4/20
Jonathan Schilke	4/23
Rob Burns	4/29
Lexi Hansen	4/30

From the Pastor's Desk

Office Hours

Monday, Wednesdays & Thursday
9:30 a.m. — 1:00 p.m.

Other times are available by appointment, please don't hesitate to ask!

Email: pliberty57@gmail.com
Cell: (401) 499-7752



April Anniversaries

Bill & Jill Thorne	4/3
Steve & Brenda Foltz	4/23
Stephen & Dolly Hayes	4/24
Gerard & Alanna Johnson	4/24
Kevin & Gay Collins	4/28
Bill & Kathie Saums	4/30

Please Keep the Following People and Families in Your Prayers

Thank you for keeping these people in your prayers this month. It is our intent to continue to review and update the list as the information becomes available. That is where we need your help. If you know of someone who would like to be on the list, or be removed, please contact the church office (860) 464-9926 or Jeanne Allyn (860) 464-9316. Please include the name of the person to be added/deleted as well as your contact information.

Thank you!

- Doug C.
- The family of Ruth Celotto
- Bill Dawson
- Fred
- Joan Jirsa
- Cindy M.
- Johanna Nolan
- The Family of Jim Seaton
- Jim Sorensen
- Roy Warren
- Marge Wilson



MAUNDY THURSDAY



PALM SUNDAY

EASTER SUNDAY

Holy Week Services at Ledyard Congregational Church United Church of Christ

Palm Sunday • April 13th 9:30 a.m.

Maundy Thursday • April 17th
7:00 p.m.

Easter Sunday • April 20th
Sunrise Service • 7:00 a.m. in the Outdoor Chapel on Rte. 117 opposite Church Hill Rd. Breakfast to follow in the church Fellowship Hall

Easter Celebration • 9:30 a.m. with an Easter egg hunt during Sunday School



Ledyard Congregational Church Calendar

Our church calendar is on our website: ledyardcongregational.org and also on Breeze! The calendar is updated frequently so be sure to check it out often.

All board and Committee chairs make sure that you update all your upcoming meetings and events!

LICEAF Annual Appeal



Formed in 1986, Ledyard Inter-Church Emergency Fund, Inc. (LICEAF) is a charitable organization which administers grants to residents of Ledyard-and Gales Ferry who are faced with emergency financial needs. Examples are assistance with fuel and utility bills, food, rent and medical needs, not covered by other social programs. Funding for these grants comes from donations in response to this annual appeal. The LICEAF board consists of volunteer members of local churches and their clergy. All funds go to Ledyard residents in need.

By now you all should have received a letter informing you of ways to donate. Please open it and consider donating to help our neighbors in need.

If you feel you might benefit from LICEAF assistance or know of neighbors in need , please contact Ledyard Social Services ([860-464-3222](tel:860-464-3222)).

Thank you for your support! "Together, we can enable families to get back on their feet".

Your LCC volunteers:

Jeanne Allyn

Joyce Garstka

April Scripture Readings

Sunday April 6

Fifth Sunday in Lent

Sunday April 13

Sixth Sunday in Lent

Isaiah 50:4-9a • Psalm 31:9-16 • Philippians 2:5-11 • Luke 22:14-23:56

Sunday April 20

Easter Day

Acts 10:34-43 or Isaiah 65:17-25 • Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24 • 1 Corinthians 15:19-26 or Acts 10:34-43 • John 20:1-18 or Luke 24:1-12

Sunday April 27

Second Sunday of Easter

Acts 5:27-32 • Psalm 118:14-29 or Psalm 150 • Revelation 1:4-8 • John 20:19-31

LCC WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

WRITING GROUP

Bring your favorite writing tools — journals, tablet, laptop, etc. We will discuss writing ideas, have time to write, and have time the share ideas.

Every Monday 9:30-11:00 a.m.

In the Holdridge Library @ Ledyard Congregational Church

722 Colonel Ledyard Hwy, Ledyard, CT

ALL ARE WELCOME

No matter race, creed, gender, or identity, we welcome you to enjoy a free space to created and share!



Love & blessings for our members & their families who serve our country.

Troy Hedman Kyle Murphy
Tye Frazer Oliver Murphy

Help Us Honor the Class of 2025

We would like to celebrate this year's high school, college, and those graduating from a special programs. Please email the names of your children, grandchildren, or anyone else you know of to: chrisandmeri@gmavt.net and I'll be sure to honor them all in the June issue of the Chatter. ~Meredith



April Community Supper

ALL THINGS PASTA

Thursday, April 17, 2025

Come and see what our amazing cooks come up with!



There will also be a variety of salads, fruits, and desserts!

Ledyard Congregational Church
Fellowship Hall
on the third Thursday of every month.

Supper will be served at 5:30pm.

This **FREE** supper is open to all!

Come and sit for a while.
Enjoy a hot meal, conversation,
and community!



FREE!



Join us the first Saturday of each month in Fellowship Hall from 7:30-10:00 a.m. Enjoy a delicious breakfast of fresh hot coffee, orange juice, pancakes, sausage, scrambled eggs, and chip beef!

Come and sit for a while. Enjoy conversation and fellowship!

Each month, all profits from the free-will donations will go to support the featured organization..

Saturday, April 5th

The featured organization will be Days for Girls.

Saturday, May 3rd

The featured organization will be LCC Music.

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Please let the church office know if someone is ill, hospitalized or in need of a visit or phone call!
806-464-9926.

Thank you!

**BIBLE STUDY
CONTINUES ON
WEDNESDAY
MORNING**

10:30—11:30 a.m.

Each week we meet on Wednesday morning in the Holdridge library and discuss the scripture for the upcoming Sunday in a relaxed and fun setting. All are welcome!



Lenten Study

Our Lenten Study will focus on the book, THE HARDEST PART.

We will meet on Sunday mornings at 8:30 starting on Sunday, March 9th.

Hope you will join us.

From the Historian's Desk



Getting to Know our History, continued...

Last month we learned about the formation of the very long (north to south) Town of Groton in 1705. It wasn't long before those in the north part of town, nearer Preston, began to complain of the hardship of travelling all the way to the church in Groton. That meetinghouse was not where the current Groton Congregational Church is located, but somewhat farther north, "near the crossroads," which I have been told was in the Old Mystic area. That was still not close enough for the northern residents, and they had a point. Imagine driving your car from the Mohegan-Pequot Bridge across Ledyard and down Pumpkin Hill Road to 184. This takes you to that approximate area, and it is not a short trip. Now imagine doing that on horseback or in a farm wagon! Throw in some terrible, rutty roads. It's not surprising that they considered it a hardship.

At first, they negotiated with their own congregation, but there was resistance, perhaps due to the expected loss of revenue from a divided church. To pursue the issue,

they presented a petition to the Town of Groton in 1724...

"The petition of us Whose Names are underwritten being Inhabitants of ye north part of sd town, Humbly Showeth That whereas we find our Selves under Extreem difficultys to attend the publick Worship of God [] days: by Reason of our Greate distance from the Place opointed for Publick worship, & by Reason of Great difficulties in keeping a Sufficient number of horses for our families to attend the same – and Canot be attended in a Constant way soe that we find our selves & Children in very difficult Circumstances for want of the word Preached among us – Therefore wee Request that the Town would grant us the Liberty & Priviledge of being a distinct Parrish by our Selves; that we

may be making Provision to Call and Setle a minister amongst our Selves; that it may be well with us & our Children after us; Moreover wee also desire that a Cometee be Chosen to State & Setle a Line between ye south and ye north Society as the Town Shall think fit and yore
Petitioners Shall Ever Pray &c."

The thirty-seven petitioners who signed below include many familiar names – Avery, Williams, Gere, Allyn, Spicer, Dean, Gallup, Morgan, Bill and others.

This petition was "negated" by the town in September 1724, but they did not give up. Less than a year later, in May of 1725, they sent a new petition directly to the General Assembly. We'll hear about that effort next month.

Carol Ganz, LCC Church Historian



The Bill Dinner Will be Held on Saturday, September 20, 2025

NOTE: Please change your calendars – The date of the **Bill Dinner** kick-off to our anniversary celebration has been moved due to scheduling issues.

If you'd like to help with this fun event, please contact Dave Holdridge or Dolly Hayes (for the dinner portion).

Faith Formation and Sunday School



During March, our focus was on understanding the meaning of God as Love. It's a big theme, and we explored it in many different ways. If God is love, what color is love? Is love the color of the flowers, the clouds, the grass, or a sunset? If love is all of these colors, as one of our children told us, love is like a rainbow. Love includes all of us, and God loves us all. Moving into the Lenten Season, we focused on how we build our relationship with God. To do this, we turned to the Bible. The Bible holds the stories of the promises God made to us, and the many ways we can love God and love everyone. In the bible we learned that even Jesus was tempted to do the wrong thing. Through books we explored what happens when we do things without thinking them through, as we are all tempted to do. If we run a cart through the grocery store because it might be fun, we may collide with someone. And what would happen if everyone did that? What a mess! But, if we spread love--hugs, help, smile--well, what would happen if everyone did that.

As we continue to explore the themes of Lent, we will also learn more about the Bible. We want the children to have a 'hands-on'

experience of the bible, deepening their understanding of God's promise to us all, the many ways we can pray, and the many ways that children can spread God's love in the world. We will plant seeds for our children's garden, collect the language of love, and explore the ideas that children have for being helpers in the world.

Save the Dates

- April 9: Faith Formation Meeting 12:00
- April 20: Easter egg hunt during Sunday School
- April 27: Pizza lunch, safety discussion, and safety walk to the firehouse following Coffee Hour. All families who attend Sunday School are encouraged to attend.
- May 11: Bible Sunday, children will receive a Bible during this Sunday Service.

Continuing Education Our Whole Lives Taking Flight: Video # 9 Yes, your Kid with Debby Herbenick

At a time when all kinds of information is available on the internet, how do you inoculate children against degrading or potentially damaging misinformation about their sexuality? Why is it important for adults to know what information their children may be exposed to? It isn't your parent's internet! Speaking frankly with children about their bodies from a very young age ensures that they feel free to talk with trusted adults in their lives about boundaries, identity, and any other questions that they may have.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4rwpBTGbNFs&list=PL6VgfHt6zEy7n42hGl14bEcQh_85cbqa6&index=9

Behind the Scenes in Sunday School

The Faith Formation Team meets monthly and provides guidance for the weekly planning that goes into Sunday School. The content of the Sunday School lessons follows an overarching theme, and connects to the Sunday scripture readings. The goal is to help children explore their personal relationship to God. The format may include:

- A Circle Gathering: introductions, sharing information, prayer and song
- Reading: a trade book or bible reading
- Activity: appropriate to the day's topic
- Closing: saying goodbye

Faith Formation meets the second Wednesday of every month at noon. Our next meeting is April 9th and all are welcome.

Meet Kristie Our New Childcare Provider!

Hello, I'm Kristie Lindgren, your new childcare provider for Sunday worship. My family is new to the Congregation but we are so grateful to have received such a warm welcome from all of you. I look forward to helping in both the nursery room (ages 0-2) and the Sunday school room during Sunday Worship each week. In addition to my experience caring for my own children and babysitting for other families, I have a master's degree in teaching and ten+ years of teaching experience working with children ranging from grades K-12 here in Connecticut.

We have worked to spruce up the tot/nursery room at the church and **we are ready for business!** We are **accepting children ages 0-2** in the tot room during Sunday worship - please be sure to sign the paperwork before dropping your children off in the morning. *Paperwork will be presented to you for signature at time of drop off.*

I invite you all to share in this rewarding experience interacting with the children of the members in our congregation. We are **looking for volunteers** to assist in the childcare room with me; we'd have a list and rotate through the names. It would be a **once a month** volunteer opportunity. You can follow along by listening to Pastor



Children in the nursery room.

Pat and the members upstairs through the sound system while you're in the crib room, so you won't miss the message or the beautiful music that accompanies worship. **Accommodations can be made for volunteers** (example: I volunteer to change any and all diapers! Haha) who may have limits or restrictions on what they can do physically. You do not necessarily need to lift, bend, or sit on the floor. There are comfy chairs for you to sit in while you assist with supervision. The church's safety policy states that the children are always supervised by a minimum of two adults at all times. Childcare providers will not be alone with the children. **So your help is needed!**

PS - we are also accepting donations of diapers and wipes, as well as baby items such as baby gates or playpens—**please speak to Kristie or Dolly** to learn more specifics on what we need. At this time we only need infant toys — we are all set with toys for ages 12—24 months!

Thank you and I look forward to seeing you each Sunday!

Issues of the Church Chatter Are Available on the Church Website



Did you know you can find this issue of the Chatter plus the past two months on the church website?

Just go to: ledyardcongregational.org and click on the Chatter drop down box.



MAY Chatter Deadline is **TUESDAY, APRIL 15th.**

Please email your article to me by the 15th at: chrisandmeri@gmavt.net. As a reminder, putting the Chatter together is like trying to put a puzzle together without knowing how many pieces or what the size of those pieces will be until I get everyone's submissions. Thank You, Meredith Schuft



Worship Readers

If you would like to be added to the list of volunteers to be a worship reader please contact Beth Smith (fraugurusan@yahoo.com).

A message from

MISSIONS

Tote for Linda Davis
Food Pantry Donations



Okay, we have an easy one for April. It's all about sweets! The pantry would like us to collect **Sugar in 2, 4, and 5lb bags/boxes**. That way they will have a variety of sizes which they can hand out based on a families size. As you grocery shop each week, add sugar for the pantry to your list. Then bring in your items on Sundays and place them under the table in the front of the sanctuary. You can also drop off items in the tote under the walkway to the church offices.

On the first Sunday of each month, we will dedicate all the donations from the previous month as part of our morning offerings and then start collecting a new food item.

**April Community Supper, Thursday
April 17th 5:30 p.m. in Fellowship
Hall**



come up with!

This **FREE** supper is open to all!
Come and sit for a while. Enjoy a hot

Our April theme is **All Things Pasta!** Come and see what our amazing cooks

meal, conversation, and community! There is a sign-up sheet for both food items and helpers on the table in Fellowship Hall. Please consider adding your name wherever you can. Then come and join us for a fun evening!

February Red Cross Blood Drive

Thank you to all our donors and volunteers at our February Blood Drive. Our next drive is scheduled for **Thursday, April 17th** from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Volunteers as well as snacks will be needed. More information will be available in the weekly email blast.



Easter Baskets for Safe Futures

Once again, we will be providing Easter Baskets for the children living in Safe futures housing.



We are still waiting for the information on the children, but will be looking for donations of any small items a child might like. Suggestions include plastic eggs, card games, hair accessories, crayons, markers, stickers, and any other items you can think of that would fit into the baskets. **WE DO NOT NEED ANY GRASS OR CANDY!** The Missions committee will purchase the baskets to insure they are all the same.

We will be collecting items through

Sunday, April 13th, Palm Sunday. Please bring your donation to church on Sunday or drop off items in the tote under the walkway to the church offices.

Blanket Sunday

Mother's Day Sunday, May 12th

We are continuing to participate in the Church World Services Blanket Sunday and will be inviting you to purchase a blanket(s) at \$10.00 each in memory of or in honor of someone. As in the past, we will have blanket gift cards, which you can take to send an acknowledgment of your gift. When you support the **CWS Blankets program**, you offer more than just warmth—you provide hope and love to those facing challenging times. **27,275 CWS Blankets** were shared with people in need in 2024, thanks to generous donors like you. More information will be in the weekly email blasts and the May Chatter.

Your Mission's committee continues to be amazed and grateful for the ongoing support from our church family in all our outreach endeavors. We continue to meet and define our mission and brainstorm new ideas. We welcome any ideas/suggestions.

Thank you from your Board of Missions members, Vicky DiFilippo, Kathy Fletcher, Pastor Pat, Sara Holdridge, Anita Merando, Dee Potter, Meredith Schuft, Ellen Seeman, & Jill Thorne.



**PEACE &
RECONCILIATION**
Saturday, April 12th

**PEACE AND RECONCILIATION
PROCESS**

Our peace and reconciliation process continues on April 12th from 9:30-2:30. We are moving into the heart of the process and we need everyone to participate. You are welcome to come, even if you have missed one or more sessions. This process is most effective when 65% of the participating congregation attends. You do not need to be a member to participate.

Please bring your lunch. Coffee, tea and dessert will be provided. See you there!



**PROSTATE
CANCER**
Support Group

The Prostate Cancer Support Group is now meeting at John and Donna Clark's home.

We meet on the third Tuesday of the month from 7:00-8:30pm.

All men are welcome to join us. Spouses are welcome as well!

For meeting location and questions please contact John Clark at 860 464 7651. Thank you.

**LCC Volunteers
Come in All Ages**

Jack is 7 years old, almost 8, and he is an active member of LCC. In conversations with his mom and Sunday School teachers, we learned that Jack likes to be helpful. As a Scout, and at church, he follows his interests and helps others. In his current role on the Sunday Tech Team, streaming church on Zoom, he says his job is, *"Helping others to see church when they aren't there."*



Our Tech Team.

How did you get started working with the tech team?

"I really like machines, and I'm really interested in the camera. Ray came over to me and asked me to help him. I started to really like it, so I did it more. Now I come to church because I like to do the camera."

What's your favorite part of the job?

"The controls. The number buttons, the dial that points the camera. The computer guy (Ray) controls the pad that controls the volume but I know how to turn on and off the microphone."

What are some of the other things you do at church?

"I help people find their seats."

What are you interested in doing next to help out?

"Putting the hymn numbers on the board; lighting the candles. I like to ring the bell."

What do you want to learn next?

"I want to learn how to set up the TV."

On March 16th Jack used his camera skills to help document the cap sorting party, an ongoing recycling project to collect 200 lbs. of plastic caps in order to get a rainbow bench for the church.

*United in Spirit and inspired by God's grace,
we welcome all, love all, and seek justice for all.
We are the United Church of Christ.*

Women's FELLOWSHIP

April Meeting

Tuesday, April 8th

7:00-8:30 Social Hall



In April, our speakers will be Denetra G. McBride, Program Director 3, for Coley, Hallie, and Hogan House and Alethea Johnson-Cole Hallie House Program Manager for Women's Recovery Support Programs through the Family and Child Services at The Connections.

Coley House, in Bridgeport, Hallie House, in Middletown, and Hogan House in Hartford are, according to their website, "residential step-down program where pregnant and/or parenting women are required to participate in community-based substance use treatment while living in a safe and structured environment. The program is designed to support women as they return to their communities as a healthy and productive parent in recovery". Back in 2020, the director of Mother's Retreat, a predecessor of the Coley, Hallie, and Hogan House programs, came and spoke about that program. We are excited to hear about these new programs.

We are looking for donations of the following items which they have asked for. There are tags listing

these items in the Fellowship Hall. Please take a tag, shop for the item and then return it to church or leave it in the basket in the Atrium by our Tuesday meeting on April 8th.

Baby wipes
Baby blankets
Wash cloths
Combs/brushes
Shampoo/conditioner
Postage Stamps
Razors
Baby socks
Women's fuzzy socks
Toothpaste/toothbrushes
Women's face wash

SAVE THE DATE!

May Bake Sale

We are making plans to hold a bake sale during the Ledyard Garden club's Annual Plant Sale on **Saturday, May 17th**. We were able to resume this activity last year after a few years off and despite a raining day, made a profit of \$1,076.25! More details to follow.

Women's Fellowship is open to anyone who would like to join us. You do not need to be a member or even a regular attendee of Ledyard Congregational Church. Feel free to bring a friend.

Meredith Schuft, Chair
Email: chrisandmeri@gmavt.net



Strawberry Supper 2025 Update

It is with great sadness that we have made the very difficult decision to skip holding our Strawberry Supper this year.

In these uncertain economic times, we feel it would be unwise to commit the finances needed to fund our expenses. Preparing for such a huge event takes several months of planning which we are already a bit behind in starting.

Our Strawberry Supper has been a decades-long tradition, and we have been thankful for the opportunity it has provided us to reach out to our community – bringing people together to enjoy great food, conversation, and fellowship.

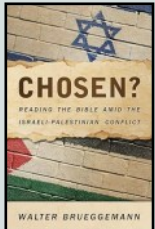
We will miss you all and are grateful for your years of support. We hope you will understand the difficult position we faced and look forward to welcoming you to our free monthly Pancake Breakfasts on the first Saturday of the month from 7:30—10:00 a.m. and our Community Suppers held on the third Thursday each month at 5:30 p.m.

With gratitude,
Women's Fellowship.



WEDNESDAY NIGHT BOOK STUDY GROUP

7:00-8:00 p.m. in the Holdridge Library



The Book Study Group continues to meet on Wednesday nights. We will be starting a new book, **CHOSEN? READING THE BIBLE**

AMID THE ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN CONFLICT by Walter Brueggemann on Wednesday the 26th. "In *Chosen?*, Walter Brueggemann explores the situation in modern-day Israel that raises questions for many Christians who are easily confused when reading biblical accounts of God's saving actions with the Israelites. Are modern Israeli citizens the descendants of the Israelites in the Bible whom God called chosen? Was the promise of land to Moses permanent and irrevocable? What about others living in the promised land? How should we read the Bible in light of the modern situation? Who are the Zionists, and what do they say?"

All are welcome to join in our lively, thought-provoking, and just fun discussions.

Please enter through the atrium door by the church offices.

Hope to see you there!



Our Rainbow Bench Caps & Lids!



Keep Those Caps and Lids Coming!

Thank you to everyone who stayed after church on Sunday, March 16th to help us sort through lots of caps and lids! We added another 15+ lbs. to our collection!

Not sure if a cap or lid is acceptable? Check out the large chart on the table in Fellowship Hall and be sure to take a flyer with you to refer to at home. PLEASE MAKE SURE ALL CAPS AND LIDS ARE **CLEAN!**

It will take a while to collect all the caps & lids needed, so don't hesitate to put

out your own container at work or school. Ask your family and neighbors to help out as well. Every cap & lid collected is one less ending up in the landfill!

A big thanks to Ellen Seeman for keeping us organized and thanks to all of you for helping us work towards our rainbow bench. Watch for an announcement with our next sorting party date!

Faith Formation & Missions



Save the Date!

Ledyard's Memorial Day Parade Sunday, May 25th



Join us in walking in the parade and help us spread the word about our upcoming celebration of our 300th anniversary! Period costumes welcome.

Watch for more exciting events happening throughout 2025-2026 including the Bill Dinner which will be held on Saturday, September 20, 2025. It will be loosely based on the famous Bill Dinners which were held for decades and includes a chowder dinner, speeches and entertainment!

Ledyard Congregational Church Social Justice Team

The Social Justice Team asks for your prayers during the month of April:

In honor of International Women's Day, we offer prayers of gratitude and celebration for the contributions of women in all areas of our lives. We also ask prayers of care and safety for women living in poverty, war zones, under authoritarian rule, and in unsafe and uncertain circumstances.

In honor of International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, we ask you to join us in prayers of care and concern for a more equitable world. We pray that everyone, regardless of race or nation of origin, can live free of the judgment of racism and discrimination. We pray that we all come to celebrate and embrace the rich diversity of God's people.

In honor of International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade, we pray that we learn from the atrocities of history, and acknowledge that nations and riches were built on the backs of slave labor and suffering. May their sacrifices and the honoring of their memories move us toward a more loving and equitable world, one that

actively cares for those who live in the margins of society.

In honor of International Transgender Day of Visibility, we ask you to join us in prayers of gratitude for the opportunity to learn from our transgender family as we examine our own hearts to root out the places where we may harbor fear or judgment. May we offer hope and safety to all and join in the joy and celebration of their lives.

February Community Celebrations by Anita

In February, the Social Justice Committee supported the Diversity Equity and Inclusion Poetry Reading at Lucille's Cafe and some of us also attended the Celebration of Black History Month at New Life Christian Fellowship. Both of these events were sponsored by the Town of Ledyard's Community Relations Committee. They were wonderful opportunities to enjoy the many perspectives and contributions of our diverse Ledyard community. In preparation for the DEI poetry reading, I delved into the word WOKE. The origins of this word have nothing to do with the current political climate. In short, its origins are traced back to the 1930's when African Americans would remind each other to "stay woke". It is adopted from the word, awake. Originally it meant to stay aware of the social and political conditions of your surroundings. It was often the

message Black parents would give their children as they ventured out into the world, arguably a deeper cautionary message than I had to give my own son. The following is the poem that I wrote to share at the poetry event.

Woke is a Call to Action

Woke is a call to action.

W Wake up!

O Open up!

K Keep up!

E Elevate up!

Woke is a Call to Action

W Witness this weary, worried world

O Operate with open-hearted, open-minded active observance

K Knowledge is the kindling of the fires of kinship

E Engage, educate, extend, empathize, encourage

Woke is a Call to Action

W Wake up!

O Open up!

K Keep up!

E Elevate up!

Be Woke!

Social Justice Team Monthly Meeting

We meet on the third Thursday of each month. Join us April 17th at 4:40 p.m. in the Holdridge Library.





*Ledyard
Congregational
Church's Community
Prayer Box*

Everyone is welcome to leave your prayer request in the box located in the west parking lot across from Valentino's restaurant.

Prayers may include prayers of celebration, of concern & healing and/or prayers of comfort. Prayer requests are collected weekly and lifted up in prayer at our Sunday morning worship service and also included in our prayer chain ministry.

Let's use faith to united us!



Looking for Greeters

We are looking for people to help with greeting people to our Sunday morning worship services. It's a great way to lend a hand in welcoming everyone

If you are interested being one of our happy and friendly greeters on Sundays, please speak with Beth Ayer after church or contact her via email: girlsmomX3@comcast.net or by phone: [\(860\) 608-5951](tel:8606085951).



LCC's Annual Spring Grounds Clean-up time is upon us. We are looking for volunteers (church, family, and friends) to join us on Saturday morning, April 19th, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. to spend a couple hours with your friends and favorite implements (rakes, pruners, snippers, hedge trimmers, brooms). For further information call Brian Johnson [\(860-464-9947\)](tel:8604649947).

Thank you in advance for volunteering.

LCC Board of Trustees-(property)



Easter Flower Order Form — 2025

Would you like to help adorn the sanctuary with Easter flowers on Easter Sunday April 20th in honor of or in memory of a loved one? To do so, simply fill in the information below and make a check out to **Ledyard Congregational Church with Easter Flowers on the memo line**. Due to pastor Pat's allergy to lilies & hyacinths, a variety of potted spring flowers will be purchased at \$15.00 each. Mail the completed form along with your check to Ellen Seeman, 8 Darrows Ridge Rd., East Lyme, CT 06333 or leave it in the Clerk's mailbox outside the church offices. Orders must be received by **APRIL 13th**. Order forms are also available on the table in the Fellowship Hall.



Your Name(s): _____ Phone #: _____

Name(s) to be remembered: _____

Name(s) to be honored: _____

Numbers of plants ordered: _____ Check enclosed for \$ _____ (made out to: **Ledyard Congregational Church**)

Please indicated whether you will be picking up your plant after the Easter service _____ or wish to donate it _____.



Church Chatter

April 2025

*A publication of Ledyard Congregational Church, United Church of Christ
Whoever you are, wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!*

**Ledyard Congregational Church
722 Colonel Ledyard Highway
Ledyard, CT 06339**

**Sunday Worship 9:30 a.m. in the
sanctuary, also via Zoom and
FaceBook**



**Time Dated Material
Return Service Requested**