



Church Chatter April 2026

A publication of Ledyard Congregational Church, United Church of Christ

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A Message From Pastor Pat

Our Covenant Relationship

In the back of our hymnal is our church covenant. It reads:

We are united in striving to know the will of God as taught in the Holy Scriptures, and in our purpose to walk in the ways of the Lord, made known or to be made

known to us. We hold it to be the mission of the Church of Christ to proclaim the Gospel to all humankind, exalting the worship of *God*, and laboring for the progress of knowledge, the promotion of justice, the reign of peace and the realization of human community. Depending, as did our ancestors, upon the continued guidance of the Holy Spirit to lead us into all truth, we work and pray for the transformation of the world into the realm of God, and we look for the triumph of righteousness and the life everlasting.

A covenant is a sacred agreement made with one another and with God. Out of our relationship with God, we covenant with other members of the community to do and be these things with and for one another, with and for the world. It is not a contract and cannot be enforced like a contract. It is more binding than a contract in that it involves sacred vows we make to one another and to God.

We don't read it often enough, but
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that will change going forward. It will be in the bulletin on every communion Sunday as a reminder of what it means to be part of the church of Jesus Christ embodied in the Ledyard Congregational Church.

In the meantime, I invite you to ponder the words of the covenant and consider how that covenant is embodied in your life and faith. Are you relying on the guidance of the Holy Spirit? Are you working for the transformation of the world through love and justice? How are you helping to realize community in our church?

Focusing our attention on our covenant individually and as a congregation is a reminder of the sacred commitments we make to one another as the body of Christ. I celebrate all the ways this covenant is already lived out in our life together and look to the future as we embody it more fully.

Faithfully Your,
Pastor Pat



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

| | |
|-------------|---------------|
| Troy Hedman | Kyle Murphy |
| Tye Frazer | Oliver Murphy |

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 |
| Elliot Wiswell | 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 |



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.
- Bill Dawson
- Fred
- Family of Mary & Dave Foltz
- Joan Jirsa
- Cindy M.
- Johanna Nolan
- Family of Jim Sorensen
- Roy Warren
- Audrey Walker
- Marge Wilson

From the Pastor's Desk

Office Hours

Wednesdays & Thursday
9:00a.m. — 12:00 p.m.

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

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



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.

April Scripture Readings

Sunday April 5th

Easter Day

Acts 10:34-43 or Jeremiah 31:1-6 • Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
• Colossians 3:1-4 or Acts 10:34-43 • John 20:1-18 or Matthew 28:1-10

Sunday April 12th

Second Sunday of Easter

Acts 2:14a, 22-32 • Psalm 16 • 1 Peter 1:3-9 • John 20:19-31

Sunday April 19th

Third Sunday of Easter

Acts 2:14a, 36-41 • Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19 • 1 Peter 1:17-23
• Luke 24:13-35

Sunday April 26th

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Acts 2:42-47 • Psalm 23 • 1 Peter 2:19-25 • John 10:1-10



Deacons' Fund

Communion Sundays provide an opportunity to contribute to the Deacons' Fund. This fund is set aside for members of the congregation who have a financial emergency. It is also used for people in the local community experiencing an emergency. Envelopes for this special collection can be found in the pews on the first Sunday of the month.



Church Clean Up 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 25th, 2026 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).

Thank you in advance for volunteering.

LCC Board of Trustees-(property)

Key-Code and/or FOB Holders

If you have a key-code and/or FOB, you are expected to let yourself into the building. During office hours, use the ring camera just to let Bridney know you are here, then let yourself in.

All Visitors

Please ring the door chime and our admin will respond as quickly as possible. Please be patient. Thank you



Our next **wheelchair accessible Sunday worship service** will be

on May 3, 2026 when we will worship in Fellowship Hall. Enter through the double doors into the Hall. (Bill Library side.)

A message from

MISSIONS

Linda Davis Food Pantry

Donations



For the month of **April**, the pantry is asking that we continue to collect **men's & women's shaving**

cream and lotion. When you grocery shop, please add a few items for the pantry to your cart. 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 or in the box inside the Atrium.

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 16th

5:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall



Our April theme is

Fool-me-Foods

Not to worry, there will be plenty

of different foods to choose from!

Come and see what our amazing cooks come up with.

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

Come and sit for a while. Enjoy a hot 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!

May Red Cross Blood Drive Wednesday, May 13th



Our next drive is scheduled for **WEDNESDAY MAY 13TH** from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00

p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Volunteers as well as snacks will be needed

Having people sign up to donate ahead of time is helpful! That way we can be sure we have enough staff on hand to expedite the process. It's easy to do! You can call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit RedCrossBlood.org. Not sure of your schedule? Walk-ins are always welcome!

If you are interested in volunteering during the drive or donating snacks (wrapped individually), please contact Jill Thorne at gbthorne@sbcglobal.net or via phone 860-912-0924. Your help is always welcome!

We continue to be committed to holding Blood Drives as an ongoing mission of our church and are grateful for the support we receive from our community and church members and friends.

Easter Baskets for Safe Futures

Missions wants to extend a thank you to all who supported the Easter



Baskets for Safe Futures. The mission of Safe Futures is: *stopping abuse, restoring hope and saving lives of those impacted by domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, trafficking, elder abuse, and child abuse in South East CT.* Each year, the number of children requiring services of **Safe Futures** increases. Last year we made Easter baskets for half of the 34 children who were residents. This year we gifted 34 of the 100 baskets needed. There are many opportunities to support **Safe Futures**. Consider exploring the following links.

Capital Campaign for the Centers for Safe Futures: <https://safefuturesct.org/campaign/>

Upcoming events that support Safe Futures: <https://safefuturesct.org/upcoming-events/>

Take a tour of Safe Futures' missions: <https://safefuturesct.org/tours/>

Become a Safe Futures Ambassador: <https://safefuturesct.org/become-an-ambassador/>

Follow Safe Futures on Social Media: <https://safefuturesct.org/get-social/>



**Church World Services Blanket
Sunday, May 10th**

In May, we will celebrate all the women in our lives with blankets. As in the past several years, we will be participating in the **Church World Service's Blanket Sunday** and are inviting you to purchase a blanket(s) at \$10.00 each. Blanket gift cards, are available for you to take to send an acknowledgment of your gift. "Your gift of a CWS blanket brings comfort, care and hope to someone facing a difficult moment. Your generosity makes this possible. Every blanket you share tells a neighbor, 'you're cared for.'" Thanks to generous donors like you, CWS shared 17,317 blankets in 2025.

There is an order form on page 15 and also on the table in Fellowship Hall along with envelopes and thank you notes.

"Jesus said, 'I was in need and you cared for me.'" Matthew 25:40

**SAVE THE DATE
Epic Day of Service
Saturday, May 16th**

The Ledyard Rotary is cohosting this event, along with Rotary clubs from surrounding towns for the 4th year. Each year of this effort, the Rotary clubs have grown the event, the number of meals packed, the number of volunteers and community involvement, and

therefore also the amount of money needed to fund the food and packaging supplies. The effort is done through a New England chapter out of Massachusetts of The Outreach Project.

This year, they are continuing the trend and will pack 40,000 meals. The completed meals are then donated to United Way's Gemma Moran Food Center for distribution to pantries and support programs in all of New London County, including the Linda Davis Pantry in Ledyard.

The event will take place on the morning of Saturday, May 16, 2026, at United Methodist Church in Gales Ferry, who is also one of the event sponsors. We, Ledyard Congregational Church, has also stepped up as a sponsor of the event. What's needed now are volunteers.

Packing meals is a hands-on opportunity to make a tangible impact. The event entails a 1 or many hour commitment for almost any age, including as young as 4 years old and including people who need to sit during their shift. There will be 2 shifts for food packing. 8 am – 9:30 am and 9:30 – 11 am. Anita Merando along with Lisa Curtis are going to encourage Sunday school families to participate, but we are reaching out for more members of our congregation to

A flyer for a meal packing event. The top left features the Rotary logo and text: 'Rotary Club of Ledyard, CT in combination with Groton, Norwich Sunrise, Norwich Noontime, Niantic, Waterford & Montville Rotary Clubs, The United Way, United Methodist Church in GF & Ledyard Congregational Church'. The main text reads: 'MEAL PACKING EPIC DAY OF SERVICE packing over 40,000 meals MAY 16, 2026 8-11am'. Below this, it says: 'All meals will go to the Gemma E. Moran United Way/Labor Food Center and be distributed from there.' At the bottom, contact information is provided: 'Questions? Contact Lisa Ann Curtis @ -lisaanncurtis@yahoo.com and/or Anita Merando @ -armerando@gmail.com.' The right side of the flyer features a photograph of volunteers in blue shirts with the Rotary logo, working at a table with red meal packages.

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participate as well. There is a sign-up sheet on the table in Fellowship Hall for you to add your name to the list of volunteers. Questions? Please contact Lisa Ann Curtis @ lisaanncurtis@yahoo.com and/or Anita Merando @ armerando@gmail.com.

Your Mission's committee continues to be amazed and grateful for the ongoing support from our church family in all our outreach endeavors.

Thank you from Sue Burns, Kathy Fletcher, Dolly Hayes, Pastor Pat, Sara Holdridge, Anita Merando, Dee Potter, Meredith Schuft, Ellen Seeman, Kathy Smith, & Jill Thorne.

Lights Out and Doors Shut!



Don't forget to **turn out all lights** and **close all interior doors**.

Electricity rates have doubled in Connecticut and all interior doors must be closed when the building is not in use.

This is necessary for managing energy costs and fire safety purposes.

THANK YOU!

APRIL COMMUNITY SUPPER

Fool-me-foods

Thursday, April 16, 2026
Ledyard Congregational Church
on the third Thursday of every month.

Come and see what our amazing cooks come up with. There will be lots of great food to choose from!

Supper will be served at 5:30pm.
This is **FREE** with a donate-what-and-if-you-can supper and is open to all!

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

Enter through the double doors into Fellowship Hall (Bill Library side).

Name Tags

We are all encouraged to wear name tags on Sundays. If you need a name tag or have misplaced yours and would like a new one, please contact Beth Smith.
(fraugurusan@yahoo.com).

Thank you!



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).

Caps & Lids Updates for Our Rainbow Bench



After our second weigh-in with the help of our Sunday school children on Sunday, February 15th, our total came to 217 lbs., which surpassed our initial goal of 200 lbs. Ellen Seeman asked the congregation what we thought about trying for 250 lbs. to upgrade to an 8 ft bench. The congregation overwhelmingly agreed, especially when Ellen told us that Leslie Stasko had commented that we would be able to invite one more person to sit with us.

So, keep those caps and lids coming! 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!**

Big thanks you goes to Pat B who has been taking home numerous bags to short and clean and to Ellen Seeman who brought us the idea for this project! The involvement from our church members, community members and lots of our family members has been truly rewarding!

Thank you from Missions and Faith Formation

Fellowship Hall Air Conditioning Project

With all this cold weather, who's been dreaming of the summer months? Hot, humid weather sounds good right now, doesn't it?



Good news! The congregation voted at the Annual Meeting to install permanent air conditioning units in Fellowship Hall to support All Access services in the summer, as well as Pancake Breakfasts, and other Church and community activities. In addition, air conditioning will enable Ledyard Congregational Church to offer space to the American Red Cross for summer blood drives.

The Trustees have secured a proposal to install two ductless mini split systems in Fellowship Hall for approximately \$25,000. These units are quieter and more efficient than window units. Plus, we already have

a \$10,000 donation from an anonymous and generous person! Donation forms are available in Fellowship Hall.

- Completed forms along with your check made out to Ledyard Congregation Church, Attention: Assistant Treasurer can be left in the Treasurer's mail slot.
- or, they can be sent to:
 - Ledyard Congregational Church (Fellowship Hall Air Conditioning)
722 Colonel Ledyard Hwy.
Ledyard, CT 06339

You can also make an online donation in Breeze.

- On the dashboard you will find a option labeled **Online Giving**. Under that click on **Give a Gift**. Enter the amount you would like to give and then click on the down arrow on **Give to General Fund** and click on **Give to Fellowship Hall AC Fund Raiser**. Click on **Continue** and complete the required information.

Thank you from the Trustees!

Attention Board and Committee Chairs

Make sure that you update the Breeze calendar on upcoming meetings and events. If you have any questions about how to make updates, please reach out to Chris Schuft (chrisschuft@gmavt.net) for answers. Thank you.

God places us in the world as workers—agents of transfiguration. We work with God as the injustice is transfigured into justice, so there will be more compassion and caring, that there may be more laughter and joy, that there may be more togetherness in God's world.

Desmond Tutu

Ledyard Congregational Church Social Justice Team

When the Social Justice Team formed under the umbrella of Missions and Faith Formation, we were discussing ways to build a deeper understanding of why the need for charity is steadily increasing. In recent months during dialog sermons with Pastor Pat, both Safe Futures and the New London Hospitality Center shared startling facts about the growing need for their services. Despite the generosity of our church, and other community, government, and corporate partnerships, more people find themselves facing issues of homelessness and abuse, and non-profit organizations are scrambling to meet the needs. It begs the question, "why is this happening?". Jesus commanded us to *Love our neighbor as ourselves*. At LCC the evidence of our love flows as we generously share our time and resources. We create community fellowship and support through Community Suppers, Pancake Breakfasts and contributions to the Food Pantry. Yet, the needs grow.

The Social Justice Team has chosen Micah 6:8 as our guiding verse, *...and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice...* We are challenged to understand what true justice looks like, as it is what the

Lord requires of us. If we look at the life of Jesus to answer this challenge, he not only tended to the sick and outcast, he also built a table big enough to feed Jews and Gentiles. He lived a life that challenged the status quo and modeled an inclusive society. When he upset the tables at the temple, he challenged an oppressive system. So, what is Micah asking of us when he says that the Lord requires of us to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with our God? For certain, our acts of charity and sharing are an expression of our love and offer comfort and lifesaving resources. Perhaps they are the first steps towards justice. As we wrestle with what the Lord requires of us to do justice, the Social Justice Team invites your reflection and prayers. We also invite you to join us at our next meeting, 4:00-5:00 Thursday, April 23rd.

On March 14th, twenty six of us gathered in Fellowship Hall for a Constructive Dialogue workshop presented by John Holdridge. John, through his work with the Can We? Project, primarily facilitates workshops for high school students in Maine, teaching the skills that build bridges across cultural and political differences. On Saturday, through a variety of engaging activities, we practiced the skills of listening and paraphrasing, pausing in the silence to allow more

information to emerge, prioritizing curiosity over conflict, and recognizing what we have in common rather than focusing on our differences. By building empathy through sharing personal stories and taking on perspectives of others, we can let go of winning, understand the values behind someone's position, respond rather than react, and discover what we have in common. It was a beautiful day of sharing, lifting one another up, and gaining new perspectives on navigating conversations where we have strong emotional attachment.

The Social Justice Team is grateful to LCC and the Janet Barnet Legacy Project for sponsoring this wonderful direct event. It sets the perfect tone for our upcoming Intro to Racial Justice workshop on April 25th. We invite everyone to attend.



LCC Social Justice Team's Next Meeting, Thursday April 16th 4:00-5:00 p.m.

The LCC Social Justice Team meets the 3rd Thursday of every month in the Holdridge Library. All are welcome to join us



**Pop-in-Prayer, Thursday
April 16th**

Our **Pop-In Prayer** meets from 5:00-5:30 p.m. in the Lester Room. In April we will gather in prayers of guidance, celebration, and thanksgiving for both our Adult and Sunday School Faith Formation programs. Join us in prayer ahead of the Community Supper at 5:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall.

**Keeping You
Informed**

This Chatter newsletter is filled with articles to help keep you up to date on all that’s happening at LCC.

Additionally, the church office sends out a weekly email blast which contains information about our Sunday worship service and highlights of upcoming events. We encourage you to read. If you do not already receive the weekly email blast, please contact the church office via email at:

ledyard.cong.church@gmail.com and you will be added to the list. Note, you can unsubscribe at any time.



**Ledyard Congregational
Church, United Church of
Christ**

**Open and Affirming
Statement and
Non-Discrimination Declaration**

Open and Affirming Statement

“There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.” [Galatians 3:28]

As we are one in Christ, we are called to accept and respect one another. We commit ourselves to work diligently to end all oppression and discrimination which afflicts God’s people in our society. We seek to explore new ways of affirming our faith in community according to the wisdom of the Gospel. We work, as individuals and as a community, to become more Christ-like in our love for one another.

Love is a unifying and strengthening force within the Christian faith, and we, the members of the Ledyard Congregational Church, hereby declare ourselves an Open and Affirming Church and welcome into full participation members and staff of every sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression.

Jesus teaches us to welcome all God’s children. As we grow together in faith and love, we will strive to

celebrate the diversity in which God has created us. As followers of Christ, we seek by this affirmation to be faithful to his commandment, *“love one another as I have loved you.” [John 15:1]*

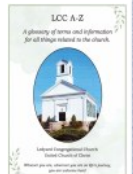
Non-Discrimination Declaration

We welcome into full participation all who seek to follow Jesus, including persons of every age, gender, race, national origin, faith background, marital status and family structure, mental and physical ability, economic and social status, and educational background, to share in the life, leadership, ministry, fellowship, worship, sacraments, responsibilities, blessings and joys of our church family.

*Adopted at the Ledyard
Congregational Church’s
Semi-Annual meeting
August 24, 2025.*

LCC A-Z

A-Z has been updated and will continue to be updated on an as needed basis. If you have additional corrections, please send them to Beth Smith (fraugurusan@yahoo.com).



A link is also available in the weekly E-blast and hard copies are on the table in Fellowship Hall.

From the Historian's Desk



Springtime in North Groton

First, I'd like to make a correction. Last month I stated one of the places to worship was Capt. William Morgan's. It was actually Capt. John Morgan's.

While there was no official society meeting in March or April, there were weekly opportunities to do some planning, and it is possible that church records were begun by this time. Unfortunately, we do not have the church records for this period, but they would have included things like baptisms, marriages, membership rolls, deaths, as well as any covenant and other church documents they may have developed. The society handled practical matters like property, taxation and hiring a minister. The church handled religious issues, including church discipline.

In her "History of New London, Connecticut," first published in 1852, Frances Manwaring Caulkins states about our church, that in 1810, when Rev. Tuttle's pastorate began, "not a single member of the old church remained, nor could any

record of former members be found." [We'll hear more about that in a future article.] We were fortunate in the 1950s to acquire back the society records from the early days and much of what we know is based on that record. However, we can be sure there were baptisms and marriages, and church business going on in North Groton as well.

We have no specific information about what society business was going on for these early spring months, but if Samuel Seabury began preaching in mid-February, his term would have been up about the end of April, so they were set for a while. In the meantime, the committee may have succeeded in getting the line between the societies drawn by the surveyor. On individual farms, spring work was beginning and like Joshua Hempstead over in New London, they would have been busy pruning trees, mending fences and planting some crops. April opened with a week of off-and-on "stormy cold rain." The New London militia held training days and had some promotions, and it is likely the same was happening east of the river.

I hope most of you were able to attend the "Getting to Know Our Church Ancestors" Potluck on March 29. If you heard anything that made you want to know more about some part of our history, let

me know and I'll see what I can find for a future article!

Carol Ganz, Church Historian



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!

Help Us Honor the Class of 2026

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



Did you Know?



We have [new hearing assistance devices](#) to assist the hearing-impaired during worship services. See the Tech

Team before worship to try one!

So, Tell me Again How I log into Zoom to Join the Sunday Service?

Every week, in the email blast, below the first slide that invites you to "Join us for Worship" is a button that says "Click here for zoom meeting information and dial in numbers". If you choose to join us online, click here and follow the instructions. It's easy.

If you have tried this in the recent past and it hasn't worked, you are not crazy. We discovered that the link to zoom hasn't been working consistently and we want you to know that it's fixed. If you experience any problems with this link, please let us know by emailing the church office.

ledyard.cong.church@gmail.com

See you online!

Monday Morning Bible Study

Each week we meet on Monday morning from 10:30-11:30 a.m. in the Holdridge library and discuss the scripture for the upcoming Sunday in a relaxed and fun setting.



All are welcome!

April Pancake Breakfast

Come and Help Support the Ledyard Parks & Rec's



Saturday April 4th,
7:30-10:00 a.m.

Ledyard Congregational
Church Fellowship Hall.

All profits from any donations received will go to Ledyard Social Services Camp Scholarship Fund helping to send children to camp for an unforgettable summer!

Join us for a FREE delicious breakfast of fresh hot coffee, orange juice, pancakes, sausage, scrambled eggs, and chip beef. All are welcome!

Camps will run from June 29th — August 7th for all children ages 4-13.

Enter through the double doors into Fellowship Hall (Bill Library side).

For more information call Ledyard Parks & Recreation 860-474-9112.

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!

Announcement!

The writing group is back! Beginning on Thursday, April 23rd we will meet from 1:00-2:30 p.m. in the Holdridge Library. All are welcome!

Sponsored by the LCC Women's Fellowship

Women's FELLOWSHIP

Spring Cheer Baskets



On Tuesday, March 10th we assembled **Spring Cheer Baskets** for people we believe would enjoy them and appreciate being remembered. We each took a few and delivered them to the recipients. Which we have now done for the last few years and it has been heartwarming to see how much the baskets are appreciated.

Tuesday, April 14th
7:00-8:30 p.m.

Social Hall

Elahna Sherman with the Avalonia Land Conservancy will be our guest speaker. She is currently the Board Secretary, Advisory Council Chair, and Ad-hoc Education and Outreach Committee Chair. "She is working with Avalonia on developing a disability access agenda that is seamlessly integrated into all programs and activities. A resident of Norwich, she has an equally strong interest in seeing Avalonia establish a greater presence in distressed communities."



Avalonia's Mission "We preserve natural habitats in southeastern

Connecticut by acquiring and protecting lands and communicating the value of these irreplaceable resources."

Avalonia Land Conservancy, currently has 7 preserves in Ledyard among its holdings in Southeastern CT. This meeting is open to anyone who would like to join us. Come and find out more about these gems right here in our back yards!

Tuesday, April 28th

Luncheon Out

11:30 a.m.



On Tuesday, April 28th, we are planning for a luncheon out. Details are still being worked out so look for more details in the weekly Eblasts.

Tuesday May 12th Meeting

6:00-7:30 p.m. Note Time Change!

Social Hall

Our Tuesday meeting is our year-end meeting where we gather earlier for a light supper of salads and desserts! This is also a time when we spend some time brainstorming possible programs and activities for the upcoming year. We call it our "chat and plan" meeting!



Once again, we will not be holding a Strawberry Supper this year, but our Board of Missions will be holding a **Free** Community Supper on Thursday, June 18th. Our theme is

Start Your Grill. Come and see what our amazing cooks come up with. Supper will be served at 5:30pm in Fellowship Hall. This is **FREE** with a donate-what-and-if-you-can supper and is open to all.

Women's Fellowship is open to anyone who would like to join us for any of our activities. You do not need to be a member or even a regular attendee of LCC. Feel free to bring a friend! **All are Welcome!**

Projects Funded By The Janet Barnett Memorial Grants



Save The Date

Sunday, May 3, 2026

On Sunday May 3, 2026, we will be holding a the community dinner at Ledyard Congregational Church, UCC to celebrate all the special project that have been funded through the grants in honor of Janet's memory.



All the wonderful projects will be shared at the dinner and we invite you to come and see all that has or will be taking place as we honor Janet's legacy.

Watch for more details in the May Chatter and the weekly Email blasts!

Faith Formation and Sunday School



The children in Sunday School have been busy welcoming new children to our church, learning to appreciate the variety of gifts that each and everyone of us contributes to our community, and learning that other religions have a lot in common with our church.

Heifer International Fund Raiser



During the month of April, children in Sunday School will be learning about extending their faith into the larger world. One aspect of this study will support the work of Heifer International's mission to *end global hunger and poverty by supporting and investing in farmers and their communities*. There will be more information about this in Sunday announcements and in the eblast.

Opportunity to Volunteer as a Family Saturday, May 16th for the Epic Day of Service

Ledyard Congregational Church, supported by Missions, is a sponsoring organization in the annual Rotary Epic Day of Service. Families and all of our church community are invited to help pack

meals which will be distributed by the United Way's Gemma Moran Food Center. This is a hands-on opportunity for children and adults to volunteer together for the benefit of our New London County community. More detail on this project can be found in the Board of Missions article on pages 4-6 and there is a sign-up sheet to volunteer on the table on Fellowship Hall.

News From the Nursery Pagers

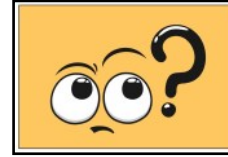
As our Sunday School program is growing quickly, we have invested in pagers for the Nursery. These pagers are intended to provide a way to reach parents who stay in worship while their children are in the nursery with Kristie. When you drop off your infant or toddler at the Nursery, you will be assigned a pager. Should the need arise to reach you, it will vibrate and flash (similar to a restaurant pager).

Volunteer Opportunity



With a growing nursery program, there is an opportunity to volunteer occasionally

during Sunday worship. We are hoping that several people will respond to this invitation, so that we can create a schedule that asks you to volunteer no more than once / month. Talk with Anita for more information.



Adult Faith Formation

Following the Peace and

Reconciliation Workshops, a committee formed to explore options for Adult Faith Formation. Information presented to the congregation from the recent survey indicated that the vast majority of us want to pursue spiritual development. The Board of Faith Formation invites you to come to us with your thoughts about meaningful faith formation studies. We have Bible Study, Book Group, and are mid-session in our Meditation Study. Small Groups are meeting monthly. What are some other ways we can support spiritual development? The next Adult Faith Formation Committee meeting is Wednesday, April 8, at 11:00. All are invited.

The Board of Faith Formation meets the second Wednesday of each month in the Holdridge Library. Our next meeting is Wednesday, April 8th, 11:00 a.m. for Adult Faith Formation, and 12:00 p.m. for Sunday School Faith Formation.

All our welcome to join us!





FREE! Pancake Breakfast

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 4th

All donations will go to help fund the **Ledyard Camp Scholarship program.**

Saturday, May 2nd

All donations will go to help fund the **Ledyard Congregational Church music program.**

Saturday, June 6th

All donations will go to the Ledyard Inter-Church Emergency Fund, Inc. (LICEAF)

Saturday, July 4th

There will be NO Pancake Breakfast in July due to the holiday.

Thank you for your continuing support for all the organizations!

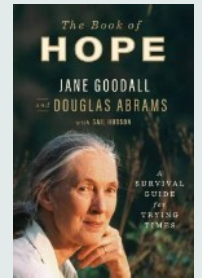
ALL ARE WELCOME. JOINS US!

WEDNESDAY NIGHT BOOK STUDY GROUP Wednesday, April 8th to watch the Jane Goodall's final interview, "Famous Last Words" 7:00-8:00 p.m. in the Holdridge Library

Everyone is invited to join our Wednesday Night Book Study Group on **Wednesday April 8th** when we will be viewing an interview with Jane that was done shortly before she died and to be aired after she passed away.

On the following **Wednesday, April 15th**, we will begin discussing her book, **The Book of Hope.** "In this urgent book, Jane Goodall, one of the world's most famous naturalists, and Douglas Abrams, the

internationally bestselling co-author of **The Book of Joy**, explore through intimate and thought-provoking



dialogue one of the most sought after and least understood elements of human nature: hope. In **The Book of Hope**, Jane focuses on her "Four Reasons for Hope": The Amazing Human Intellect, The Resilience of Nature, The Power of Young People, and The Indomitable Human Spirit."

You are all welcome to come on the 8th whether or not you are interested in participating in our book group.

Hope to see you there!

Help Needed for Church Council!

We are in need of a secretary to Church Council. The duties of this volunteer position involves taking notes at the Church Council meetings and distributing to Council members for review.

The Council typically meets on the second Sunday of the month in the Holdridge library following our morning worship service and

social time, but if you cannot attend a particular meeting, there are always people happy to fill in.

It's a great way to know first-hand what's going on at church, too!

If you could help out, please contact either Chris Schuft: chrisschuft@gmavt.net or Bill Barnes: iambarnes@gmail.com.

Thank you!



Issues of the Church Chatter Are Available on the Church Website



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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.

Looking for Greeters for Sunday Morning Worship Service

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.



MAY Chatter Deadline is **WEDNESDAY, 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.

The Chatter has increased from 12 to 20 pages, which has added significant time to the production time!

Thank You, Meredith Schuft



Church World Services Blankets — 2026

In May, we will celebrate all the women in our lives with blankets through the **Church World Service's Blanket Sunday program**. We are inviting you to participate by purchasing blankets at \$10.00 each in honor or memory of someone. To do so, simply fill in the information below and make a check out to **Ledyard Congregational Church with CWS Blanket Fund on the memo line**. Then mail both 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 Sunday, **May 10th, Mother's Day** when we will dedicate all the blankets we purchased. Order forms are also available on the table in the Fellowship Hall. **Please print clearly!**

Your Name(s): _____ Phone #: _____

Name(s) to be remembered:

Name(s) to be honored:

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



Church Chatter April 2026

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

Church Office Hours

Monday through Thursday

8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

Phone: 860-464-9926

Email:

ledyard.cong.church@gmail.com

Website:

www.ledyardcongregational.org

Ledyard Congregational Church
722 Colonel Ledyard Highway
Ledyard, CT 06339

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

Along with Sunday School, and
Nursery/Childcare



Time Dated Material
Return Service Requested