

Church Chatter

February 2024

A publication of Ledyard Congregational Church, United Church of Christ.

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A Message From Pastor Pat

Worship with Us during Lent

During Lent this year we will focus on finding our way home. Joel 2:12-13, "yet even now, says the Lord, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping and with mourning. Rend our heart and not your clothing. Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and relents from punishing."

We begin on Ash Wednesday, February 14th with a worship service at 7:00 including the imposition of ashes. Each Sunday during Lent we will focus on a different aspect of what keeps us from God, shame, guilt, anger, doubt and fear. Scripture references and titles are on page 2. We will explore the lives of bible characters who dealt with these issues and how God reached to them with love and grace. Finding our way home to God often leads us through these difficult emotions. The focus is on coming through on the other side and celebrating God's presence with us.

Each Wednesday at 10:30 we gather to study the text that I will use the upcoming Sunday. Please join us!

See you in church and other places,
Pastor Pat

From the Pastor's Desk

Office Hours


Wednesdays & Fridays
8:30 a.m. — 12:30 p.m.

Please call or text 401-499-7752, or email pliberty57@gmail.com to set up an appointment. Other times are available by request, please don't hesitate to ask!



LENT

The season of
Lent begins on
Ash Wednesday,
which is
February 14th this year.
Join us for our Ash Wednesday
worship service at 7:00 p.m.



**BIBLE
STUDY**

Wednesday Mornings
Holdridge Library
10:30—11:30 a.m.

Wednesday, February 7th

The Transfiguration Story
 Mark 9:2-9

Wednesday, February 14th

Returning from Shame
 2 Samuel 13:1-22

Wednesday, February 21st

Returning from Guilt
 Genesis 1 and 2 Selected
 Verses

Wednesday, February 28th

Returning from Doubt
 Genesis 3 and 4 Selected
 Verses

Wednesday, March 6th

Returning from Anger
 Jonah 3:1-4:5

Wednesday, March 13th

Returning from Fear
 Judges 6

Wednesday, March 20th

Returning Home
 Luke 9 Selected Verses

**Church Office Hours**

The church office is now open on
**Tuesday, Wednesday, &
 Friday 8:30am-2:30pm.**

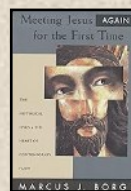
Phone: 860-464-9926

Email:

ledyard.cong.church@gmail.com

Website:

www.ledyardcongregational.org

**LENTEN STUDY**

Wednesdays
February 21st through
March 20th

7:00 p.m. in the Holdridge Library

We will be using the book, *Meeting Jesus Again for the First Time. The Historical Jesus & The Heart of Contemporary Faith*, by Marcus J. Borg.

Books are available from Amazon and other book sellers. It is helpful if each family has their own book.

Hope to see you there.

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

**February
Anniversaries**

Jim & Pam Ball

2/28

**February
Birthdays**

Laurie Schilke	2/4
Margo Lippman	2/7
Roy Belhumeur	2/9
Christopher Blomstedt	2/9
Allie Fedors	2/9
Ken Blomstedt	2/10
Henry Denton	2/10
Will Barnes	2/12
Alexander Engel	2/18
Carol Gauthier	2/19
Kerry Tashea	2/19
Tommy Burns	2/20
Kelly Lamb-Strickler	2/25
Ben Rust	2/26
Jake Fedors	2/28



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, Jeanne Allyn (860) 464-9316, or Janet Barnet (860) 287-6322. Please include the name of the person(s) to be added/deleted as well as your contact information. Thank you!

- Peg Ayer
- Deb Betz
- The family of Bill Dambach
- Bill Dawson
- Christine Dawson
- Fred
- Joan Jirsa
- The family of Ellen Lawrence
- Cindy M.
- Johanna Nolan
- Jim Seaton
- Jim Sorensen
- Jeanne and Roy Warren
- Ethel Watson
- Marge Wilson



February Scripture Readings

Sunday, February 4

Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany

Isaiah 40:21-31 • Psalm 147:1-11, 20c • 1 Corinthians 9:16-23

• **Mark 1:29-39**

Sunday, February 11

Last Sunday before Lent

2 Kings 2:1-12 • Psalm 50:1-6 • 2 Corinthians 4:3-6 • **Mark 9:2-9**

Wednesday, February 14

Ash Wednesday

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 or *Isaiah 58:1-12* • Psalm 51:1-17 • 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10 • Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21 • **Joel 2:12-14**

Sunday, February 18

First Sunday in Lent

Genesis 9:8-17 • Psalm 25:1-10 • 1 Peter 3:18-22 • Mark 1:9-15

• **2 Samuel 13:1-22**

Sunday, February 25

Second Sunday in Lent

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16 • Psalm 22:23-31 • Romans 4:13-25 • Mark 8:31-38 or *Mark 9:2-9* • **Genesis 1 and 2 Selected Verses**

*** These are the scripture readings which Rev. Pat will be using.**



LCC 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.

Not on Breeze yet? Contact Chris

via email: chrisschuft@gmavt.net or via phone: 802-488-0802. He can work with you to get you connected!

Board and Committee chairs have the ability to add events to the calendar in Breeze. Please do so. Additionally, you can also email your meetings and events to the church office and ask for it to be added.

From the Church Historian

LCC Anniversary Committee – the Jan. 14, 2024, meeting

The committee met for the third time, this time with many more in attendance. There was an animated and productive discussion, and we have a start toward planning several events beginning with a “Bill Dinner” in the fall of 2025. We’ll use the same format for the next meeting, tentatively scheduled for Sunday, April 7, 11 a.m. in Holdridge Library.

This is a project of the entire church and friends, and it will be as big and complex (or not) as you want to make it. Over the next two years, as Church Historian, I would like to be able to concentrate on research, writing, getting the archives in better order, and checking the accuracy of the publications and other information we put out. We can have fun and still be true to the story! So, join us in putting on a celebration worthy of our 300-year history!

We began by going over what had already been suggested and discussing what factors to consider as we made choices (feasibility, appropriateness, cost, setting, responsibility, potential conflicts, etc.) There were many questions, and you are all welcome to weigh in on the answers.

How do we incorporate the town’s

history as well, and encourage the town to celebrate with us? (The Ecclesiastical Society was the predecessor to what became the Town of Ledyard over a century later.)

For each event - is it intended to be educational, entertaining, commemorative? What is the focus?

Scheduling – where should each event fit in the calendar and sequence of events? How far ahead does each project need to be started? How much should we do at once, i.e. should a complex event be broken into smaller events?

Who will organize, who will plan the details and who will carry out projects? Individuals and committees will be needed. There’s room for all!

Some of the events and projects already being planned:

We will have a float or banner in this year’s parade, letting people know about events to come.

The Bill Dinner (fall 2025) will be a community event, just as the early ones were, with chowder, speakers, music, and other activities. Dave Holdridge has some great ideas for this gathering to get us started and to emphasize the connection between church and community.

The Bill Library Association will, with

friends from the church, have an open house celebrating the history of the Bill Library, from its origins on our balcony to the building we now know, perhaps coinciding with the 2026 Memorial Day parade event.

We will get to know the members of the 1725 congregation, through some genealogy and local history research, similar to a project some may remember from 1993 for the congregation that built the current meetinghouse. I will provide guidance for this project, and hope several of you would like to choose an individual to bring to life.

Chris Schuft would like to put together a slide show or shows of photos of church gatherings. This can represent our recent history as well as much earlier, and will be useful in organizing the many images we already have, as well as ones we hope you will all bring in for scanning.

There was considerable discussion of how to put together visits to historic buildings, cemeteries (Ledyard Center and Bill), bike a/o wagon rides, etc. These could include costumed docents, souvenirs, and other features. Some of these things might be together as a tour, but others might be done over time, similar to the passport program the library has sometimes used. Come help us figure out the best way to accomplish the many

wonderful ideas.

Other events yet to be planned would be a special commemorative service in the sanctuary, and perhaps an event with our “mother” church, Groton Congregational. The children will be involved in all of these but might have fun with wearing the old clothes and trying out the earlier lifestyles.

We hope to provide a visual representation of just how much 300 is, but haven’t yet decided how that will be done – perhaps 300 pages displayed with events for each year, or 300 luminaria, or?

Big things like a capital improvement project or some outreach project in the community and small things like souvenirs (perhaps like a Cat’s Meow or small crosses from old wood) are on the table. Bring your planning, sewing, cooking, composing, building, acting talents and join us.

In addition to continuing our planning and discussions, our April meeting will have two main goals:

1. Plan our participation in this year’s Memorial Day parade and
2. Pin down a schedule of no more than six events for the fall of 2025 through 2026, to present at the semi-annual meeting this August.

Carol Ganz, Church Historian

coowaganz@aol.com, 860-608-9691

February 2024 Community Supper

Come join us at the
Ledyard Congregational Church
on the third Thursday of every month.

Thursday, February 15th, will feature
pulled chicken and pork, a vegetarian option,
plus breads & rolls, salads, fruit, and desserts!

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!



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



**Groundhog Day is Friday,
February 2nd!**

**Let’s all keep our fingers crossed
that he doesn’t see his shadow!**

**New Members’
Class**

**Saturday, February 17th
1:00-2:30 p.m.
in the Holdridge Library**

Anyone interested in
becoming a member is
invited to the gathering.

**Faith Formation
and Sunday
School**



From Manger to Home

Celebration!

One of the goals of Sunday School is to encourage children to speak about things that they care about, and then to support them to set goals and take action. In January, Gabriela took on the project of raising money to drill wells in South Sudan. To help accomplish her goals, she organized her friends and family to serve at the January Pancake Breakfast. There was an amazing response from the community. Gabriela's project, supported by matching funds from Missions, raised enough money to drill 3 wells!

Looking Ahead

In Sunday School, as we think about Jesus's journey from manger to home, we are exploring the meaning of homes in our own lives. To do this, Sunday School is focusing on not

only our own homes, but how homes are the same and different around the world. It was hard for our children to imagine what it would be like to have to walk miles to get water; what it would be like if we didn't have a tap to turn on to draw a bath or get a drink. As we continue to explore home over the next month, we are already seeing that children are demonstrating compassion, empathy, curiosity, and wonder as they listen to the stories of others whose daily lives are different from our own. We look forward to seeing how this study unfolds, the insights and connections that children make, and how they express their understanding in words and actions.

Gratitude and Invitation

Thank you for your continued support of Faith Formation Sunday School. The Faith Formation Team welcomes your thoughts, wishes, and insights.

Dolly, Anita, and the Faith Formation Team

**From Your
Stewardship
Committee**



Thank you everyone for your support. You are the church and, as our Stewardship campaign slogan said, "Because of you OUR church changes lives". We are a strong church community grounded in faith motivated to serve.

Stewardship isn't just about financial support (treasure), it's also about giving of time and talent. To all who serve on Boards and Committees, help at pancake breakfast, make food for our monthly community suppers, support and contribute to our numerous missions' projects, play music, ring bells, and sing in church on Sunday, work with our children on faith formation, run our bazaars blood drives, and community events, host coffee hours, help maintain our buildings and grounds, and all the important things not mentioned here, THANK YOU.

We are early in the 2024 year so let's all think about how we can use our time and talent in creative and impactful ways to make this year a banner year for our church.



**Linda C Davis Food Pantry
Wish List 1-22-24**

- * Coffee Creamer * Oatmeal * Progresso & Chunky Beef Soup * Stewed Tomatoes * Tomato paste * Tomato Sauce * Baked Beans * Liquid Soap * Shampoo * Body Wash**

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, February 3rd

The featured organization is CHAIN (Citizens Helping Animals In Need)

Saturday, March 2nd

The featured organization is our local Girl Scout troop. Donations will go to charities chosen by the scouts.

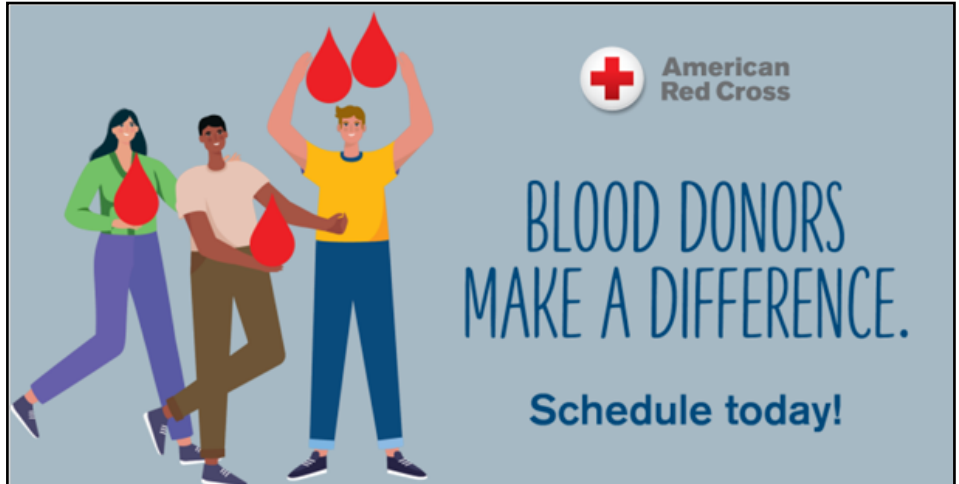
Saturday, April 6th

The featured organization is Days for Girls.

Saturday, May 4th

The featured organization is LCC Music.

ALL ARE WELCOME!



BLOOD DRIVE

Ledyard Congregational Church

722 Colonel Ledyard Hwy, Ledyard

**Wednesday, February 28th
11:00 am – 4:00 pm**

Please call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit redcrossblood.org and enter: **LedyardCong** to schedule an appointment.



Scan to sign up

Share your heart! Come give in Feb. for a \$20 Amazon.com Gift Card by email. See rcblood.org/heart.

Save up to 15 minutes at your donation. Visit redcrossblood.org/rapidpass to get started!

1-800-RED CROSS | 1-800-733-2767 | RedCrossBlood.org | Download the Blood Donor App

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*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!

Church Safety Update

The doors to the church are unlocked while the church office is open and people are there.

As a courtesy to Alicia, please enter via the door near her office so she is aware of visitors.

Thank you!

A message from

MISSIONS

Tote for Linda Davis Food Pantry Donations

There is now a tote to leave donations at any time for the food pantry on the walkway outside the entrance to the Ledyard Congregational Church's offices which we will be checking periodically.

On the first Sunday of each month, which is also Communion Sunday, the tote will be brought up to the Sanctuary to receive donations.

Socks, Hats, Mittens, and Toiletry Items Needed for St. Vincent de Paul Place



Thank you to everyone who donated warm hats, mittens/gloves, socks, and toiletry items for St. Vincent de Paul. These were all gratefully appreciated and will aid in their work to provide for our homeless population.

January 6th Pancake Breakfast Update

Our January Pancake Breakfast, highlighting Gabriela DiFilippo's mission project to raise funds to drill wells for water in Southern Sudan was a resounding success!

The profit from the breakfast was \$1,373 and as promised, Missions is

matching it. Additionally there was \$450 donated online bringing the total raised so far to \$3,170! That means we have raised enough for three wells! On to raising money for a fourth well!



Sunday, February 4th Valentine Making Workshop

Everyone is invited to join us in Fellowship Hall on Sunday February 4th following our morning worship service for a Valentines making workshop.



All materials will be provided for you to help make valentines for some of our older members and friends and/or for someone special that you know.

Save the Date for the Next Red Cross Blood Drive on February 28th.



The American Red Cross is experiencing an emergency blood shortage as the nation faces the lowest

number of people giving blood in 20 years. Your blood donation is needed now to help alleviate the shortage and ensure lifesaving medical procedures are not delayed.

We will be holding our next drive on Wednesday, February 28th, from

11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., in Fellowship Hall. 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), visit RedCrossBlood.org, or use the QR code on the poster on the right to schedule an appointment! 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!

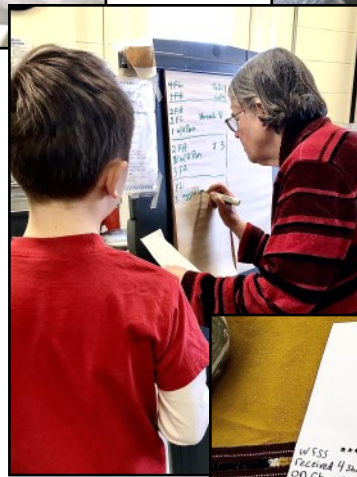
We continue to be committed to holding Blood Drives as an ongoing mission of our church and are grateful for the support we receive from our community and church members and friends.

One Great Hour of Sharing Special UCC Missions Offering to be Received on Sunday, March 10th

This year's theme is **Share the Light. One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS)** special mission offering of the United Church of Christ involves you in disaster, refugee/immigration, and development ministries throughout the world. When a disaster strikes or people are



Photos From the Pancake Breakfast on January 6th



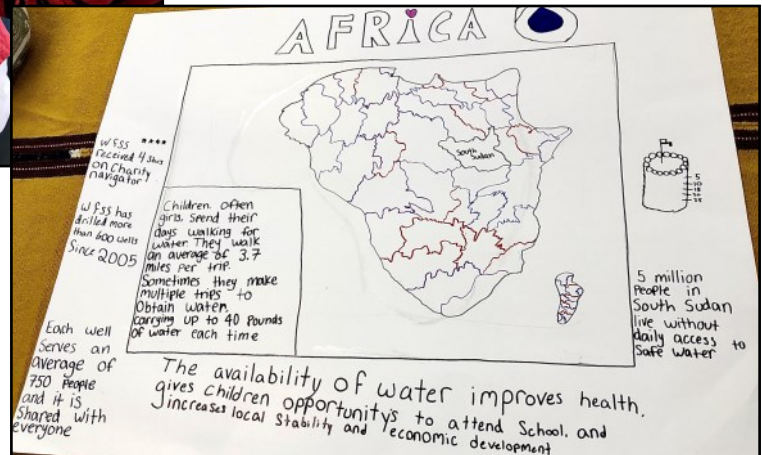
displaced or made refugees by violence or extreme poverty, you are part of the immediate response and of the long-term recovery.

Through **OGHS** you engage in holistic development programs including health care, education, agriculture, food sustainability, micro-financing and women's empowerment.

Because the UCC relates in mutual partnership to churches and organizations through Global Ministries and worldwide response & recovery networks, your contributions to **One Great Hour of Sharing** put you in the right place at the right time for the relief, accompaniment and recovery of the most vulnerable. You meet immediate needs and you address the underlying causes that create those needs in the first place.

Monthly Community Suppers

Our monthly community suppers on the 3rd Thursday of the month continue to be well attended with



about 50 people attending each month, including both church members and members of our community. These are all made possible thanks to our volunteers and all our cooks.

We also want to give a huge shoutout to **Jackie and Valentinos Restaurant** for their generous donations of delicious food every

month. Thank You!

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 Missions

Women's FELLOWSHIP

Save Saturday, February 10th for Our SOUP-ER-BOWL LUNCH

Please join us on Saturday, February 10th in the LCC Fellowship Hall for a **Soup-er Bowl** free Soup and Sandwiches lunch. Lunch will be followed by our program **Older and Wiser?? Tackling the BIG Decisions.**

Our panel of speakers will include Attorney Ellin Grenger addressing legal issues, Realtor Sue Johnson addressing housing, and CPA Jim Austin addressing financial issues we all face as we age.

This timely and informative program is OPEN TO THE COMMUNITY!

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

If you have any questions, comments or ideas for topics you think would be interesting, please feel free to contact me and I will pass it along to our Program committee.

Meredith Schuft, Chair
Email: chrisandmeri@gmavt.net



MARCH Chatter
Deadline is
THURSDAY
FEBRUARY 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. Your early, or at least on time submission will make my job that much easier!

Thank You, Meredith Schuft

FULLY ACCESSIBLE SERVICE & VALENTINE WORKSHOP!

Join us for Sunday Morning Service on February 4th, in Fellowship Hall for a fully accessible service, followed by a fun filled Valentine making workshop!



We hope to see all our friends who are not regularly able to attend service in person!

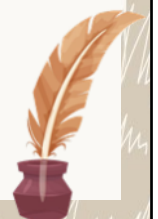
We miss seeing all of you!

Help Needed for Church Council!

We are in need of a secretary to Council. The duties of this volunteer position are simply taking notes at the Church Council meetings.

The Council meets monthly, but if you cannot attend a particular meeting, there are always people happy to fill in. It's a good way to know first-hand what's going on at church, too!

If you could help out, please contact ether Sue Burns or Bill Barnes.





PROSTATE CANCER

Support Group

The Prostate cancer Support Group is now meeting at the Ledyard Congregational Church, 722 Colonel Ledyard Highway in Ledyard.

We will meet in the Lester Room 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 more information and questions please contact John Clark at **(860) 464-7651**
Thank you.

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: [Ledyard Congregational Church.org](http://LedyardCongregationalChurch.org) and click on the Chatter drop down box.

SOUP-ER BOWL LUNCH!



Please join us on Saturday, February 10th at 12:00 p.m. in the Ledyard Congregational Church Fellowship Hall for a Soup-er Bowl free Soups and Sandwiches lunch!

Lunch will be followed by our program *Older and Wiser?? Tackling BIG Decisions.*

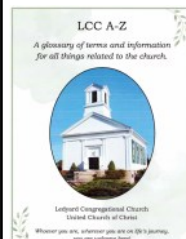
Our panel of speakers will include Attorney Ellin Grenger addressing legal issues, Realtor Sue Johnson addressing housing, and CPA Jim Austin addressing financial issues we all face as we age.

This timely and informative program is sponsored by the Women's Fellowship and is open to the community.

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



Introducing the "LCC A-Z"



The **Ledyard Congregational Church A-Z** is a glossary of terms and information for all things related to the church. This is an

organic document that will be updated as needed to remain current and accurate. Printed copies are available on the table in the Narthex and is now posted on the church website: ledyardcongregational.org. Any additions or corrections to the **LCC A-Z** can be emailed to Beth Smith at fraugurusan@yahoo.com.



Church Chatter

February 2024

*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

Phone: 860-464-9926

Email: ledyard.cong.church@gmail.com

Website: www.ledyardcongregational.org

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



Time Dated Material
Return Service Requested