



Church Chatter February 2025

A publication of Ledyard Congregational Church, United Church of Christ

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A Message From Pastor Pat

Dear Friends,
 We are all shocked, saddened and horrified by the attack on our Administrative Coordinator. We have been taught to see church as a safe place and when that deep feeling of safety collides with a different reality we are left with many mixed feelings.

Let's not give this intruder any power. We need to go about our regular activities and reclaim our church as a safe space. In order for it to BE a safe place we need EVERYONE to do their part to make sure all doors and windows are securely closed and locked.

The issue of unlocked doors has been a problem for years. It is not unusual to come into the office and find one or more doors open. As one who is alone in the building on many occasions (as is our Admin. and

Musician), I can tell you it is pretty creepy.

All this is by way of saying that we all share a responsibility to make sure doors are closed and locked. This means ALL doors, even if you don't think they will be open. If you are the last person out of the building, PLEASE make sure all doors are securely closed and locked.

I invite your prayers for our Administrative Coordinator and for the congregation as we process this traumatic event.

Faithfully,
 Pastor Pat



LENT

The season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, which is March 5th this year.

Join us for our Ash Wednesday worship service at 7:00 p.m.



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
- John Clark and family on the death of his sister
- Bill Dawson
- Fred
- Joan Jirsa
- Jody Lees and family at the passing of her husband Dave
- Cindy M.
- Johanna Nolan
- The Family of Jim Seaton
- Jim Sorensen
- Roy Warren
- Marge Wilson

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



February Birthdays

Laurie Schilke	2/4
Margo Lippman	2/7
Roy Belhumeur	2/9
Christopher Blomstedt	2/9
Allie Fedors	2/9
Henry Denton	2/10
Will Barnes	2/12
Warren Dolphin	2/17
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



February Anniversaries

Jim & Pam Ball 2/28

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

Troy Hedman Kyle Murphy
Tye Frazer Oliver Murphy

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

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 to 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 create and share!

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.

Update Your Information

We would like to be sure to have your most current contact information (names of family members, address, phone numbers, email, important dates, and/or any other updates) and to announce your birthdays and anniversaries in the monthly Chatter newsletter.

Email updates:
ledyard.cong.church@gmail.com.

Thank you!

February Scripture Readings

Sunday February 2

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

Jeremiah 1:4-10 • Psalm 71:1-6 • 1 Corinthians 13:1-13 • Luke 4:21-30

Sunday February 9

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

Isaiah 6:1-8, (9-13) • Psalm 138 • 1 Corinthians 15:1-11 • Luke 5:1-11

Sunday February 16

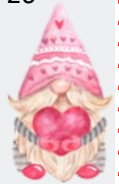
Sixth Sunday after Epiphany

Jeremiah 17:5-10 • Psalm 1 • 1 Corinthians 15:12-20 • Luke 6:17-26

Sunday February 23

Seventh Sunday after Epiphany

Genesis 45:3-11, 15 • Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40 • 1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50 • Luke 6:27-38



Ledyard Congregational Church Social Justice Committee

Mission:

The LCC Social Justice Committee believes that social justice is one of the core values and roles of the Church. Our mission is to help Ledyard Congregational Church embody the message that “Whoever you are, wherever you are on life’s journey, you are welcome here.” We will work with the congregation and social justice organizations to love our neighbors by fostering a church and community environment that is diverse, inclusive, safe, and welcoming; encouraging the

implementation of practices, projects, and events that help educate ourselves and our community on social justice issues; and advocating locally on issues that impact marginalized groups in our community.

Vision:

The LCC Social Justice Committee affirms that every human being is created in the image of God and we are committed to the right of every human being to live free from discrimination. No person should be victimized, marginalized, or discriminated against in our community on the basis of race, gender, age, religion, ethnicity, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, disability, education level, political affiliation, or citizenship

status. We support dialogue, education, and action. We reject hatred, bigotry, and “othering” in all forms.

When:

The Social Justice Committee meets at the church at 4:30 pm on the third Thursday of every month (coinciding with Community Supper nights). Come for the justice, stay for the supper!

Interested?

For more information see: Anita M., Bobbi B., Tom B., Beth S., Sara H., Pat B., or Pastor Pat.



CAP/LID COLLECTION



Missions and Faith Formation Are Teaming up to Collect Caps and Lids which will be Transformed into a Rainbow Bench!

We held our first Sorting Party on Sunday, January 26th and after sorting out the Not Acceptable and those that needed further washing our bag weighted in at 17.2lbs! Thank you to Luca DiFilippo for "weighing" them for us. As we need to collect 200 lbs., there will be lots more Sorting Parties and we hope you will participate. Meanwhile, please continue to collect your caps and lids and remember,

- They **MUST** be washed and clean.
- There must not be any metal, paper, labels, glue, or paper/plastic gaskets on the caps & lids.
- If you're not certain about a cap or lid, please toss it into the container anyway. Our Sorting Team will be able to determine if it is acceptable or not.

The list of "acceptable" caps and lids keeps growing, so be sure to check

the poster at church to make sure you aren't throwing away something good! And take a flyer with you to refer to at home!

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!

Thank you for helping us work towards our rainbow bench!
The Faith Formation Team



SAVE THE DATE PEACE & RECONCILIATION

Our next Peace and Reconciliation meeting will take place on February 8, 2025 beginning at 9:30 am and continuing until 2:30 pm with lunch, snacks, and child.

You are welcome to attend, even if you did not attend the first session.

This session will focus on how we respond individually in times of conflict. We will also focus on healthier styles of communication, listening to understand as opposed to listening to respond. We will have opportunity to practice new skills and improve the way we handle conflict.

This is the heart of our interim work. You do not need to be a member to attend. Everyone is welcome. Remember we need 65% of the participating congregation to attend in order for the program to have maximum positive impact in our community. A Sign up sheet is up on the bulletin board between the offices.

Our next two meetings will take place on , **March 15 and April 12.**
See you there!

Faithfully,
Pastor Pat

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 1st

The featured organizations will be Girl Scout troops 63155 and 63060.

Saturday, March 1st

The featured organization will be Ledyard High School Music Booster.

Saturday, April 5th

The featured organization will be Days for Girls.

Saturday, May 3rd

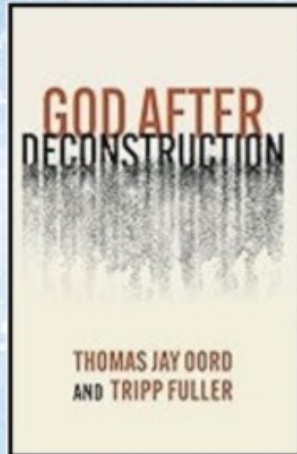
The featured organization will be LCC Music.

Saturday, June 7th

The featured organization will be the Ledyard Camp Scholarship Program.

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Wednesday Night Book Study Continues Holdridge Library 7-8pm



The Book Study Group continues to meet on Wednesday nights. We have just started a new book God After Deconstruction by Thomas Jay Oord and Tripp Fuller, so it is a perfect time to join us. All are welcome to come and join in on our lively, though provocation and, just fun discussions. Hope to see you there!



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



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.



Our Community Prayer Box

Everyone is welcome to leave your prayer requests in the Community Prayer Requests box.

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 are also included in our prayer chain ministry.

Let's use faith to united us!

Faith Formation and Sunday School



Sunday School has been busy as we learned about the many ways that fundraising for Heifer International can change the lives of families who suffer food insecurity. Thank you to all who donated and encouraged the children in this project. We collected a total of \$458.00. Some of that was dedicated to specific choices by the donor. The children had \$315.00 to spend, and they had fun choosing. They applied their money to a sheep, a goat, honey bees, and chicks. Additionally, other donors' selections included seeds, food baskets, and shares of water buffalo. The children and Faith Formation Team appreciate everyone's support.

At home, you can continue to participate in the important work of Heifer International by enrolling in Heifer International Read to Feed Program at this link: <https://www.heifer.org/what-you-can-do/get-involved/schools/read-to-feed.html>

Looking Ahead

In the Bible, John tells us that *God is Love*. We will use children's books and stories of the bible to explore this theme, and we look forward to learning from the children as they explore what *God is Love* means to

them. As we learn about the meaning of *God is Love*, we will explore our role in God's plan as helpers and caretakers, putting our ideas into action.

The Rainbow Bench Project continues, and as we collect more caps, the children will be involved in weighing them. Watch for a poster tracking our progress. Please continue to bring your **clean** plastic caps, paper and metal free, to the container in Fellowship Hall.

Child Care on Sundays

As the number of children attending Church is growing, having a child care provider for our youngest children will be a great benefit to our community. If you know of a trusted sitter or child care provider, please encourage them to apply. See the poster on page 7 for more details.

Continuing Education

Our Whole Lives Taking Flight

Videos are geared toward older teens and adults, and recommended as a learning tool for adults in our community who are interested in exploring the intersection of gender identity and spirituality. Here's a review of **Our Whole Lives and Racial Justice, Video # 41**. Beginning by defining the difference between anti-racist and white supremacist ideology, this webinar draws a connection between Our Whole Lives values

and anti-racism. It identifies the values of **OWL** as a lens to view and talk about the systems that interfere with true racial equity. These principled values include: respect, relationship, responsibility, self worth, sexual health, justice and inclusivity. Here is a link to this video:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pVk_7WR8T3c&list=PL6VgfHt6zEy7n42hGl14bEcQh_85cbqa6&index=41

The next Faith Formation Meeting is Wednesday, February 12th at 12 noon.

Everyone is invited to attend.



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!

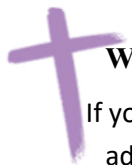
For more information and questions please contact John Clark at **(860) 464-7651** Thank you.

Red Sleigh Bazaar Financial Results are In!



I'm happy to report that the net profit from this year's Red Sleigh Bazaar was \$ 6,443! Thank you again to the many, many people who made that happen. The profits allow Women's Fellowship to fund our programs and activities and to donate money towards our church's budget each year. Additionally, some of these funds go to the UCC's Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM) which funds the work the UCC does in its Associations and Conferences as well as the national and global church. Some of the funds also help us give annual donations to non-profit organizations within our community, specifically to provide services to our most vulnerable population. Thank you again! We look forward to another successful bazaar next year.

Sue Burns
Women's Fellowship



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).

LEDYARD CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

NOW HIRING

Ledyard Congregational Church is hiring a Child Care Provider.

This position is for 3 hours every Sunday, 9:00 AM to Noon. Candidates should have child care experience, a child care certification or equivalent, and CPR training; and will work collaboratively with the Faith Formation team to provide care of infants and toddlers.

Interested individuals should contact the LCC office, (860) 464-9926. Please email resumes to ledyard.cong.church@gmail.com

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

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

I am just so very **GRATEFUL** this very moment, to have a roof over my head, food to eat, clean clothes to wear, a warm bed to sleep in, drinkable running water, electricity... We take so much for granted, when there is so much to be **GRATEFUL** for.

A message from

MISSIONS

Valentine's Workshop
Sunday, February 2nd



Everyone is invited to join us in Fellowship Hall on Sunday February 2nd 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.

We all had a wonderful time doing this last year and are looking forward to creating more valentines for our special someones. Hope you will join us.

Tote for Linda Davis Food Pantry
Donations



In an effort to make it easier to donate to the food pantry, we will continue focusing on one food group each month.

February will be instant and boil-in-bag rice products As you grocery shop each week, add items 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.

Our February Community Supper will be held on Thursday February 20th 5:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall

Our February theme is Hearty soups, stews, and breads. 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 and join us for a fun evening!

Red Cross Blood Drive Wednesday, February 26th 11:00am-4:00pm



Severe winter weather and wildfires have forced thousands of blood donations to go uncollected. There is a critical need for platelets, as well as an emergency shortage for types O negative and B negative blood. Your blood donation is needed now to help alleviate the shortage and ensure lifesaving medical

procedures are not delayed. 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 page 5. 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.

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.

**Informal Gathering
Thursday, February
6th at 7:00pm**

We are all deeply affected by the incident on January 13th.

Our hearts are broken for our dear friends. We have our individual feelings and concerns about building safety, and we need to be together to talk about it.

Come to an informal gathering on February 6th at 7pm for conversation and processing. The session will be facilitated by Pastor Pat.

If you have questions or want more information, speak with her in person, by phone at (401) 499-7752, or by email at pliberty57@gmail.com.

Hope to see you there.



Thank you for supporting the Girl Scouts!!

FREE PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Hot Coffee, Hot Chocolate, Orange Juice, Pancakes, Sausage, Eggs and More. All donations for the breakfast go to Girl Scout Troops 63060 and 63155.

Saturday, February 1, 2025 | 7:30-10 a.m.

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



**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.

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

*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!

Habitat for Humanity
of Eastern Connecticut

ReStore

Shop - Donate - Volunteer

Plainfield ReStore
808 Norwich Road, 06374
860-564-7507

Waterford ReStore
82 Boston Post Road, 06385
860-437-3422

Store Hours:
Tuesday - Saturday, 10 to 5
Donations accepted between 10 and 4

Women's FELLOWSHIP

February Meeting

Tuesday, February 11th

2:00-3:30 NOTE TIME CHANGE!

Social Hall

Join us on Tuesday, February 11th for a program in **Sound Healing**. Misty Cermak-Ganoe, a certified sound healer, will guide us through a sound healing meditation that provides a wonderful opportunity for deep healing and relaxation. Sound healing has been scientifically researched and acclaimed as a gentle and effective tool for mind-body wellness. It has been proven to facilitate concentration, relaxation, creativity, and pain management. The benefits can be felt after one session, although there are long term benefits from repeated sessions.

Participants will remain seated in a position that is most comfortable for them. This may mean in chairs or lying down. If you choose the latter, please bring a yoga mat as well as 2 blankets and 2 pillows for comfort and support. With the room dimly lit, we will begin a short meditation to settle in and quiet the mind before we relax to the sounds of the frame drum, quartz crystal singing bowls, koshi chimes, and more. This is truly a beautiful way to calm the nervous system, connect with self, and gain clarity of our inner being.

Sound healing benefits:

- reduces stress and anxiety
- lowers blood pressure
- increases circulation and blood flow
- balances both hemispheres of the brain
- increases mental and emotional clarity
- brings deep relaxation and eases pain
- improves quality of sleep
- increases ability to concentrate
- inspires deep meditative states and deepen all spiritual work

Hope to see you there!

March Meeting

Tuesday, March 11th

2:00-3:30 NOTE TIME CHANGE!

Fellowship Hall

Our March 11th meeting will include creating some Spring Cheer. In addition to the meeting we will spend time putting together some baskets to give to those who perhaps may need a little spring cheer. Come join us for this fun craft. All materials will be provided.

April Meeting

Tuesday, April 8th

7:00-8:30

Social Hall

In April, our speaker will be Denetra G. McBride, Program Director 3, for Coley, Hallie, and Hogan House Women's Recovery Support Programs.

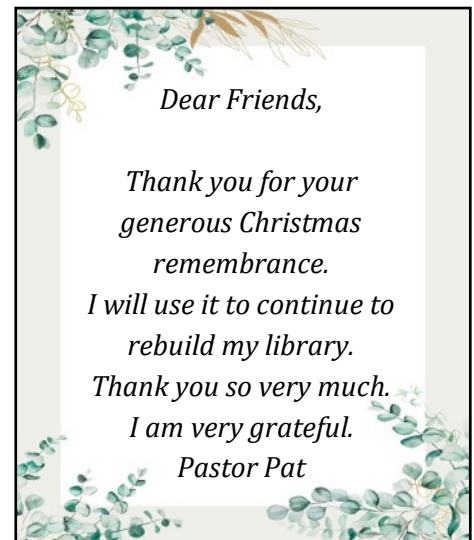
Watch for more information in the

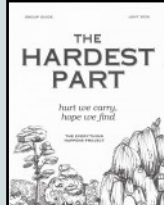
March Chatter.

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





Lenten Study

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

Watch for more information in the weekly email blasts!

Hope you will join us



**Save the date!
New Members'
Class**

Sunday, February 16th
following worship service
in the Holdridge Library

Are you interested in
learning more about
becoming a member of LCC?

Plan to attend the
information session on
February 16th following
worship. The session will be
held in the Library. Come
with your questions and
wonderings. Of course,
there is no obligation to join
after the session. New
member Sunday will be
celebrated on March 2,
2025.

**February
Community Supper
Hearty Soups, Stews, & Breads**

Thursday, February 20, 2025
Come and see what our amazing
cooks come up with!

There will be a variety of
soups, stews & breads, along with
salads, fruit, and of course deserts!

Ledyard Congregational Church
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!





Just a friendly reminder...

MARCH Chatter
Deadline is **SATURDAY,**
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.
Thank You, Meredith Schuft

**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!

LCC
— ANNUAL —
MEETING

SUNDAY, JANUARY 26TH
FOLLOWING
MORNING WORSHIP

ALL ARE WELCOME!



*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**



**Time Dated Material
Return Service Requested**