

# Church Chatter

## January 2026

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

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11 Sometimes we pray in silence. If we

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12 are moved to pray aloud, the

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13 in silence that is punctuated with

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13 spoken prayer, a half hour goes very

Wear Your Name Tag

13 quickly! Gathering with others to

Faith Formation & Sunday School

14 pray helps us with our individual

Church Council Secretary Needed

15 prayer life as well.

Monday Morning Bible Study

15 Praying allows our intimacy with

Open and Affirming Statement and Non-Discrimination Declaration

15 God to grow. As we come to God honestly and without pretense, we invite God into our lives as they are in the moment. Some moments are

LCC A-Z

15 lament, some reflect spiritual

### *A Message From Pastor Pat*

#### **Why Pop in Prayer?**

For the last several months the Social Justice Team has sponsored Pop in Prayer Time. For a half hour before the community dinner, you are invited to gather with others in the sanctuary for a time of prayer. Over the past few months, we have

sought prayers for particular groups; veterans, those with food insecurity and others.

When people come together to pray, it becomes more than the sum of people gathered. There is power

dryness, sometimes prayer can be filled with gratitude and joy, sometimes prayer is pure confession and still other prayers can be expressions of our anger, disappointment or frustration. There is no such thing as a bad prayer!

Praying regularly gets us past the transactional nature of some prayer. Often prayer sounds like God's to do list. Instead of praying for a specific outcome, try praying that the group/individual for which

*Continued on page 2*

Continued from page 1

you are praying will know God's presence and peace. Praying in intercession for the pain of the world and its people develops a sensitivity in us. We may find that our hearts and souls are drawn to particular concern and it becomes something we devote our time and labor to outside of our prayer time.

Prayer is often done in silence. When we quiet our hearts, minds and mouth, we open ourselves to God's leading and presence. When we pray in silence in community, we tap into the corporate energy of the gathered body. Knowing that others are being honest and transparent before God encourages us to be the same.

Come and pray with us! 5:00-5:30 before the community dinner.

Faithfully, Pastor Pat

### From the Pastor's Desk

#### Office Hours

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

### 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 Dave Foltz
- Joan Jirsa
- Cindy M.
- Johanna Nolan
- Family of Jim Sorensen
- Roy Warren
- Marge Wilson



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



### January Birthdays

Philip Maxson	1/3
Bill Barnes	1/5
Erin Dozier	1/5
Bobby Barnett	1/7
Danielle Christiansen	1/8
Yamila Garcia	1/8
Diane McCarthy	1/10
Joe Damm	1/13
Logan Tashea	1/15
Ken Burger	1/17
Dee Potter	1/17
Sarina Barnes	1/21
Shari Hewes	1/24



### January Anniversaries

Allen & Carol Gauthier	1/7
Donna & John Clark	1/17
Joe & Michelle Damm	1/17

*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.*

## New Members' Class Sunday, January 11th

If you are interested in exploring church membership, join us in the Lester Room for an informal conversation following our morning service.

Come with your questions and wonderings. Of course, there is no obligation to join after the session.

All are welcome!



## January Scripture Readings

### Sunday January 4

#### Second Sunday after Christmas Day

Jeremiah 31:7-14 or Sirach 24:1-12 • Psalm 147:12-20 or Wisdom of Solomon 10:15-21 • Ephesians 1:3-14 • John 1:(1-9), 10-18

### Sunday January 11

#### First Sunday after the Epiphany

Isaiah 42:1-9 • Psalm 29 • Acts 10:34-43 • Matthew 3:13-17



### Sunday January 18

#### Second Sunday after the Epiphany

Isaiah 49:1-7 • Psalm 40:1-11 • 1 Corinthians 1:1-9 • John 1:29-42



### Sunday January 25

#### Third Sunday after the Epiphany

Isaiah 9:1-4 • Psalm 27:1, 4-9 • 1 Corinthians 1:10-18  
• Matthew 4:12-23



## 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.



## A Note From Stewardship



Thank you all who made a pledge to the ministry our church for 2026. For those of you who haven't made a pledge of support, well "Holy Smokes", you still can and please consider making one now. You will find pledge cards and envelopes on the table near the offices, you can pledge online using the QR code below, or by using the link you will find in the Thursday email blast. Our church needs your support. As of mid-December, 34 families have made their pledge. We would like to thank those who have made a pledge and have allowed us to use their name in this article. We thank:

Bill Barnes  
Patricia Barnes  
Carrie & Ken Burger  
Connie Busch

Donna & John Clark  
Vicky & Kevin DeFilippo  
Bonnie & Rich Denton  
Carol & Neal Ganz  
Joyce & Ken Garstka  
Dolly & Stephen Hayes  
Sara & Dave Holdridge  
Lee Moore  
Dee & Rich Potter  
Kathie & Bill Saums  
Chris & Meredith Schuft  
Ellen Seeman  
Barbara & Jim Sorensen  
Mark & Ellen Stasko  
Andrew & Karen Stockton  
Marge Wilson



*A message from*  
**MISSIONS**

**Linda Davis Food Pantry**

**Donations**

For January we are going with **large canned Stews** for our food pantry donations. When you grocery shop, please add a few cans of stew 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.

**Red Cross Blood Drive**  
**Wednesday, February 25th 1:00-4:00 p.m.**

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](mailto: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.

**January Community Supper**

**Thursday January 15th**

**5:30 p.m. in**

**Fellowship Hall**



Our January theme is **New Year's**

**Resolution 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!

**Valentine's Workshop**  
**Sunday, February 8th**

Everyone is invited to join us in Fellowship Hall on Sunday February 8th 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 a special someone. Hope you will join us.

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. You can contact Meredith Schuft at [chrisandmeri@gmavt.net](mailto:chrisandmeri@gmavt.net) (802) 363-3808 and/or Jill Thorne at [gbthorne@sbcglobal.net](mailto:gbthorne@sbcglobal.net) (860) 912-0924.





## 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](mailto:girlsmomX3@comcast.net) or by phone: [\(860\) 608-5951](tel:8606085951).



### FEBRUARY Chatter

Deadline is **THURSDAY, JANUARY 15th.**

Please email your article to me by the 15th at: [chrisandmeri@gmavt.net](mailto: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 also increased from 12 to 20 pages, which has added significant time to the production time!

Thank You, Meredith Schuft



**January**  
Thursday, January 15, 2026  
**Community Supper**

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

Thursday, January 15, 2026, our theme will be **New Year's Resolutions Foods.**

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 **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).

*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!*



### Worship Readers

If you would like to be added to the list of volunteers to be a worship reader please contact Beth Smith [\(fraugurus@yahoo.com\)](mailto:fraugurus@yahoo.com).



## Christmas Poinsettias

**Thank you to everyone who donated a poinsettia to help decorate the fellowship hall and our sanctuary for the Christmas Season.**

### Poinsettias Given By

	<b>In Honor Of</b>
John & Donna Clark.....	Alzheimer's Donors to the Clark's Ride for Alzheimer's
Ken & Carrie Burger.....	Mary Burger

### Poinsettias Given By

	<b>In Memory Of</b>
Jeanne Allyn.....	Bereniece & Fred Allyn, Sr, Joe & Maralouise Stribling
Marion Singer, Lori Pocock .....	Doris, Earl & Robert Lamb, Pat & Jeff Yuhas, Henry R. Singer, Tim Pocock
Beth Smith .....	Jane & Wee Smith
Ken & Carrie Burger.....	Herb Burger, Wes & Carol Rethwill
Jim & Barbara Sorensen .....	Loved Ones
Bill & Kathie Saums .....	Parents & Loved Ones
Chris & Meredith Schuft .....	Susan & Skip Morrison, Kenny Slade, Alison &Edward Slade, Betty & Howard Schuft
Dambach Family.....	Lena Marie Dambach
Margaret Wilson .....	Margaret & Burriss Wilson
Sara & Dave Holdridge .....	Merry Christmas to All
Ellen Seeman.....	Margaret & John Vogel
Jody Lees.....	Dave Lees, Mr. & Mrs. Milton Jackson



### Keep Those Caps and Lids Coming For Our Rainbow Bench!

Thank you to everyone who participated in our **Sorting Party** on Sunday, November 9th. We added another 30 pounds and we still have bags left to sort! Watch for our next **Sorting Party** and plan to join us. It's a really simple and fun process and it's rewarding to see the progress we are making towards our end goal of 200 lbs.

**Save the Date! We will have another "weigh-in" with the Kids to Mark our Progress on Feb. 15th**



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! ALSO, SOLO LIDS ARE NOT ACCEPTABLE.**

A big thank you goes 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

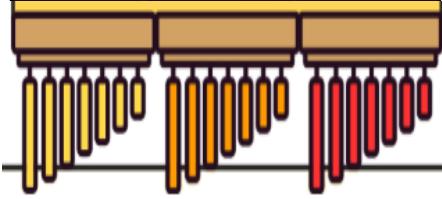
## Join us for **FAMILY CHIME TIME**

We have begun to play and experiment with different ways of making music with some of our youngest church members! We're starting with singing and getting to know how Boom whackers work and will eventually learn to ring hand chimes.

### When do we rehearse?

We meet most Sunday mornings directly after Sunday School for 15-20 minutes and all ages are welcome to join us in a fun exploration of creativity and expression.

Please direct any questions you might have to Bonnie Denton.  
860.389.1862.



## Safe Church News

### Emergency Evacuation Maps

Emergency evacuation Maps have been placed in prominent locations around the church. These maps indicate both primary and secondary exit routes. Please take note of these maps and the two exit strategies each map offers.

## Announcement!

The Writing Group will resume on Wednesday, January 21st. We meet from 1:00-2:30 p.m. in the Holdridge Library.

All are welcome!

Sponsored by the  
LCC Women's Fellowship.

### 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



### 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](http://ledyardcongregational.org) and click on the Chatter drop down box.

## Ledyard Congregational Church Social Justice Team

The Social Justice team has adopted Micah 6:8 as our guiding verse, *"He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?"*

Mathew 18:20 reads, "For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them." The Social Justice Team recognizes community prayer as one way to bring about personal peace, and the justice of Jesus to all. Praying together can deepen our bonds as a church family. Your prayers can be said in the silence of your heart, or shared aloud. Whether you pray aloud or in silence, you leave Pop-in Prayer with a deeper appreciation of our Church community while affirming that God is at the center of your life.

The Social Justice Team has chosen purposes for the Pop-in Prayer based on our commitment to bring the justice and love of Jesus to all of God's creation. In the past we have prayed for the LGBTQ+ community, women and children, people in our own community suffering with long term illness and their caregivers, immigrants, the disabled, veterans and service members and their

families, and those suffering from home and food insecurity. In January, we will have open prayer, where each one of us will bring our cares, concerns, hopes, and celebrations into prayer together. We invite you to join us, 5:00-5:30, before the Community Supper.

### Special Thank You to the Janet Barnett Legacy Project Committee and Ledyard Congregational Church

The Social Justice Team has been blessed by Janet Barnett with two grants for workshops to take place this spring. Janet's vision for these grants was to support projects that are both outreach and align with the mission of the church, promoting the Justice and Love of Jesus. Please save these dates, and plan to attend. As we get closer to the dates, we will have more information to share.

### Constructive Dialog Workshop Saturday, March 14, 9-2 with a Lunch Break

Extending the communication work that we did in the Peace and Reconciliation Workshops, this workshop uses the Story Exchange model as a way to express empathy to communicate effectively with one another.

### A Racial Justice Workshop is Scheduled for Saturday, April 25, 1:00-4:00 with a Lunch Break

This workshop calls for the participation of each one of us in

our multiracial church family. UCC facilitators will lead us through a series of readings, conversations, and reflections to broaden our understanding of race as a concept, to learn to recognize racism in its various forms, and to learn about the many ways that as a church and as individuals we can work towards justice and love for all.

### Social Justice Team Meeting, January 15th @ 4:00-5:00 p.m.

**LCC Social Justice Team Meeting Next Meeting January 15, 4:00-5:00**

The LCC Social Justice Team meets the 3rd Thursday of every month from 4:00-5:00 p.m. in the Holdridge Library followed by the Pop-in Prayer in the Sanctuary and Community Supper in Fellowship Hall.



LCC

— ANNUAL —

**MEETING**

**OUR ANNUAL MEETING**

**WILL BE HELD ON  
SUNDAY, JANUARY 25TH  
FOLLOWING  
MORNING WORSHIP.**

**ALL ARE WELCOME!**

**Pop-in Prayer, Thursday,****January 15th****5:00-5:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary****This month is open prayer for your cares, concerns, hopes, and celebrations.**

Pop-in Prayer is a collaboration of Deacons and the Social Justice Team. It is a monthly opportunity to pray in community. As a relatively new practice of our church, we want to share some of our experiences and the purpose for this half hour of community prayer.

*Pop In Prayer for me is taking time out of the busyness to spend thirty minutes in prayer for others. Beth*

*Pop-in Prayer helped me to realize that I'm not alone in my spiritual*

*journey. Hearing the prayers of others has encouraged me to pray more freely, and I'm learning that God isn't waiting to hear my perfect prayers, but simply the concerns of my heart. Anita*

*We really have looked forward each month to the fellowship of group prayer at the Prayer Pop Ins. Tom and Bobbi*

*Meditation is prayer for me. I sit, I still my body and mind, I open to all that is happening in the moment, and listen deeply. Doing this in community with others is powerful and supportive. The intention of coming together in support of one another on our spiritual journeys is a profound act of love and care.*

*Bonnie*



**Habitat for Humanity®**  
of Eastern Connecticut

### 38-Home Ledyard Neighborhood Moving Forward

Habitat for Humanity of Eastern Connecticut continues to build hope and homes in the region and with much excitement, has received the necessary approvals from zoning in the town of Ledyard to construct a **multi-family subdivision on Colby Drive** consisting of 38 homes. The construction project is being funded by grants and private donations and will consist of a mixture of two, three, and four-bedroom residences. There will be 16 single-

family homes and 11 multi-family homes.

Executive Director Sarah Lufler notes, "It is with great pride we announce the approval of the neighborhood, to be located between the high school and the center of town. It will provide walkable options for residents to grocery stores, dining, recreation, the library, and employment opportunities."

We acknowledge the vision and



## **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, January 3rd**

All donations will go to **Safe Futures**.

More information about this organization can be found in the **Social Justice Team** article on p 8.

### **Saturday, February 7th**

All donations will go to our local Girls Scout troops 63060 and 63155.

Thank you for your continuing support for all the organizations!

### **ALL ARE WELCOME. JOINS US!**

cooperation by Ledyard officials including Mayor Fred Allyn III, Elizabeth Burdick, Steve Masalin, and their team at the Ledyard town offices for their time, effort, and support. The date of the groundbreaking is to be announced.

*Article from their recent newsletter.*

## COFFEE HOUR HOST NEEDED!



Coffee hour fellowship is an integral part of our worship and church community. It's a time to catch up, meet new people, check in on church family, make plans, and even have short meetings! The generosity of our coffee hour hosts is a major part of this time of connection. We offer food and drink, feeding bodies while the time in community nourishes our hearts and souls. And it's incredibly rewarding. Each time I've served as coffee hour host, I leave feeling a little lighter, more joyful and certainly more connected to our church family.



As of this writing, our pool of regular hosts stands at 4, which is a bit challenging. While there is no ideal number of hosts, 8 works quite well and more would certainly be welcome. The tasks are simple and straightforward, and there is an invitation to serve in the regular rotation, as an alternate, or even as an assistant! We also recognize that hosts have expenses when preparing for coffee hour and are making plans to reimburse hosts in the future.

If you'd like to join us in any way, please contact me either by phone, text, or email. If you have suggestions, comments, concerns, or even requests regarding coffee hour, please direct those to me, too!

Bonnie Denton at [860-389-1862](tel:860-389-1862)  
or [bonniedenton@live.com](mailto:bonniedenton@live.com).

## Women's FELLOWSHIP



### Our Annual Holiday Open House

Our annual church **Holiday Open House** was held on Tuesday, December 9th at the home of Ellen and Bill Seeman. It was a wonderful gathering of people sharing holiday wishes and an abundance of delicious food choices. Thanks to the Seeman's for opening up their home to us all.

Tuesday, January 13th



### JOIN US FOR A Tea Party

Plans for January are still in being pulled together, but we are planning on an afternoon tea. Watch for more details in emails and the weekly E-Blast.

The Program Committee for 2025-26 is Beth Smith, Meredith Schuft, and Jill Thorne. Please contact any one of us if you have a program idea you'd like to suggest. Watch for more updates in the monthly Chatter, weekly E-blast and emails!

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!



## Our Community Prayer Box

Everyone is welcome to leave your prayer requests in our Community Prayer Requests box, located in the driveway of our parking lot across and down a bit from Valentino's restaurant.

Prayers may include prayers of celebration, of concern & healing

and/or prayers of comfort. Prayer requests are collected weekly and lifted up in prayer at our Sunday morning worship service and also included in our prayer chain ministry.

You can also email your prayers to [prayerslcc@gmail.com](mailto:prayerslcc@gmail.com).

Let's use faith to united us!



## Red Sleigh Bazaar 2025



## From the Historian's Desk



### Here We Are – 300 years!

January 3, 1725, or is it 1726? How about 1725/26? This month marks the 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first meeting of our North Groton Ecclesiastical Society. While we mark our founding date as 1725, which is the year the society was approved by the General Assembly, and obviously preparations must have begun immediately, the first actual meeting was in January. At the time, the western world was in a very slow transition from an old dating system, in which the new year began March 25, to the January first new year. To keep clear which year was intended, dates in January through March in that era were often recorded as both, making clear what was intended by showing both “old style” and “new style” dates.

Monday, January 3, 1725/26 dawned gray and miserable. Joshua Hempstead notes that it snowed most of the day, with some rain. That didn’t stop the residents of North Groton from attending the planned meeting. Capt. John Morgan, who had been one of the prime movers for establishing the

new society, hosted that gathering, presumably with the assistance of his wife Ruth and his many daughters. Capt. Morgan was not a sea captain, but had succeeded his uncle James Morgan as Captain of the local train band, or militia. The fifty-seven-year-old Morgan had substantial property and a home which was probably near the intersection of the current Gallup Hill and Spicer Hill Roads, now across from Ledyard High School.

Minutes from that meeting were very brief but set the basis for the work to come. The first priority was establishing a governing body, then beginning the search for a settled minister and the construction of a meetinghouse. Both would take time, but a dedicated group set to work. They chose Capt. Morgan as moderator for that day, and William Morgan, Junior, as clerk. They then selected a group of “committee men”:

First, Capt. John Morgan  
Second, Lieut. Christopher Avery  
Third, Sgt. Richard Williams  
Fourth, Mr. Ralph Stoddard, Sr.  
Fifth, Sgt. Joshua Bill  
Sixth, Mr. Samuel Whipple  
And seventh Ens. John Dean.

No other business was recorded, but by the next meeting (in February) it was clear that work had begun. The committee was already working on finding a preacher and locating sites for services before a

meetinghouse could be constructed.

Carol Ganz, LCC Church Historian

### Sunday, January 18

#### PLEASE JOIN US

A meeting of the Anniversary Committee will be held, to plan activities for the remainder of our celebration. This is open to all! We will develop plans for the Ancestors pot luck, a special service in the fall, and, if we wish, another Bill Dinner. Bring your ideas and be part of the fun!

### 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](mailto:ledyard.cong.church@gmail.com)

See you online!

## WEDNESDAY NIGHT

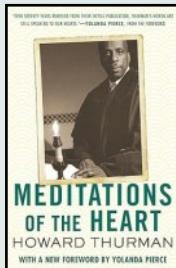
## BOOK STUDY

## GROUP

7:00-8:00 p.m.

in the

Holdridge Library



We just started a new book,

**Meditation of the Heart** by Howard Thurman.

Howard Thurman's **Meditations of the Heart** is a beautiful collection of over 150 prayers, poems, and meditations on prayer, community, and the joys and rituals of life by one of our greatest spiritual leaders. Thurman, a spiritualist and mystic, was renowned for the quiet beauty of his reflections on humanity and our relationship with God.

First written for and shared with his congregation of the Church for the Fellowship of All Peoples in San Francisco, California, these meditations sustain, elevate, and inspire. They are a universal beacon of hope and endurance for people of all faiths seeking to meet the challenges, uncertainties, and joys of everyday life with a renewed and liberating faith.

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

Please enter through the atrium door by the church offices. Hope to see you there!

# JANUARY Pancake Breakfast



Come and Help us Support Safe Futures!  
Saturday, January 3, 2026

Ledyard Congregational Church Fellowship Hall  
7:30-10:00 a.m.

Come and join us for this FREE breakfast open to all.

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!



Hope to see you there!

## SAFE FUTURE'S MISSION

Stopping abuse, restoring hope, and saving lives of those impacted by domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, trafficking, elder abuse, and child abuse in Southeastern Connecticut.

## The Center for Safe Futures



Coming to Southeastern CT  
Route 85 in Waterford

LCC Church  
Calendar

Our church calendar is on our website: [ledyardcongregational.org](http://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!

## 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.

[fraugurus@yahoo.com](mailto:fraugurus@yahoo.com)).

Thank you!

## Faith Formation and Sunday School



December marked the end of the calendar year and four months of our new Sunday School program. As evidenced by the beautiful and inclusive Christmas Pageant organized by Ashley Kornatowski, musically supported by Bonnie Denton, and involving all of our children from the youngest to the oldest, we are thriving. In addition to the Pageant, here are a few highlights from 2025.

### Children's Sunday

The first Sunday of the month, all the children participate in Communion Sunday, with the youngest going to Sunday School for a short time before returning to the Sanctuary to receive Communion with the Congregation. The older children have participated in scripture reading, collections and passing of the Communion. We have also had children participate during other services.

### Blessing of the Animals and Donations to C.H.A.I.N.

The children as well as the congregation shared in a beautiful service honoring our animal friends and brought in a significant amount of dog and cat food and accessories for animals in need.

### Caps for the Rainbow Bench

Children have joined Ellen Seeman from Missions in sorting, cleaning, and weighing caps for the purpose of exchanging them for a rainbow bench. It

has been a hands-on opportunity to learn about recycling, and also about the rich diversity of God's children.

### Volunteering

You will often see Sunday School children participating in activities beyond Sunday School such as serving at Pancake Breakfast, and adding their music to Open Mic nights.

### Looking Ahead

As we begin 2026, each of our three

Sunday School groups will continue to learn about our loving God, being in community with others, and what it means to live as Jesus commanded, loving God and our neighbors.

Faith Formation Meets the second Wednesday of the month @ Noon. The next meeting is January 14th.

All our welcome to join us!



## Help Needed for Church Council!

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

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 either Chris Schuft or Bill Barnes.



## Monday Morning Bible Study

### The Wednesday Morning Bible Study Now Meets on Mondays!

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!



### 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]

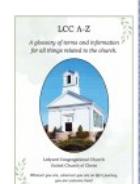
#### Non-Discrimination Declaration

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 ([fraugurus@yahoo.com](mailto:fraugurus@yahoo.com)).



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



# Church Chatter

## January 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](mailto:ledyard.cong.church@gmail.com)

Website:

[www.ledyardcongregational.org](http://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

**January 2026**



Time Dated Material  
Return Service Requested