

**Jesus didn't reject people.  
Neither do we.**

ucc.org

# Church Chatter

## July & August

## 2025

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

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## O & A Statement

In 2011, our church adopted a resolution to be an "Open and Affirming" congregation. As part of our recent Conflict Resolution Workshop, a new O&A committee has been formed to review our current messaging and ways to be more inviting to our LGBTQIA+ community, including possibly revising our current O&A Statement. For background, especially for our newest members, here is our existing statement approved by the

Congregation at the Annual Meeting on January 30, 2011:

*"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 in the face of our differences. 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, to become more Christ-like in our love for one another.

Because love is a unifying and strengthening force within our Christian faith, We, the members of the Ledyard Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, hereby declare ourselves an Open and Affirming Christian community, actively expressing Jesus' inclusive embrace of all people.

*Continued on page 2*

Continued from page 1

We welcome all who seek to follow Jesus, including persons of every age, gender, race, national origin, faith background, marital status and family structure, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, 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.

We encourage all members to participate and share talents and energy in the worship and work of the congregation. By full participation we would include as examples the following:

- Full participation in the Rites and Sacraments of the Church;
- Service as teachers for Christian Education classes and leaders of youth activities;
- Participation in all committees and service in all offices;
- Equal consideration for all employment opportunities.

Jesus teaches us to welcome all God's children into God's covenantal community. 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].

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



## July Birthdays

Rob Busch	7/1
Sandy Fedors	7/2
Johanna Nolan	7/3
Bill Seeman	7/3
Steven Williams	7/10
Elliott Smith	7/13
Paul Busch	7/14
Terry Dunn, Jr.	7/15
Jane Bliven	7/20
Bill Thorne	7/22
Marty Wirt	7/25
Phil Barbour	7/26
Jack O'Donnell	7/27
Lonnell Dunn III	7/29
Bexley Wessel	7/29
Jim Ball	7/31
Ty Curtis	7/31



## August Birthdays

Rob Ayer	8/7
Dave Holdridge	8/9
Jim Sorensen	8/10
Carol Ganz	8/11
Michael Brannan	8/12
Shea Geer	8/12

Jill Thorne	8/12
Judy Hasson	8/16
Kevin Collins	8/17
Connor Hayes	8/17
Ellen Seeman	8/18
Pat Benda	8/21
Louise Holdridge	8/24
Ashley Brannan	8/25
Abby Dunn	8/25
Robin Lippman	8/28
Matthew Hewes	8/31



## July & August Anniversaries

Jim & Karen Rhoades	7/6
Matthew & Sheri Hewes	7/14
Terry & Sandy Fedors	8/5
Dave & Sara Holdridge	8/5
Terry & Abby Dunn	8/6
Jim & Tammy Austin	8/10
Roy & Aimee Belhumeur	8/10
Phil & Andrea Barbour	8/13
Sarah & Ben Hansen	8/18
Chris & Meredith Schuft	8/22



*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
- Joan Jirsa
- Cindy M.
- Johanna Nolan
- The Family of Jim Seaton
- Jim Sorensen
- Roy Warren
- Marge Wilson

## 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

## July & August Scripture Readings

### Sunday July 6

#### Fourth Sunday After Pentecost

2 Kings 5:1-14 Psalm 30 • Isaiah 66:10-14 Psalm 66:1-9 • Galatians 6:(1-6),  
7-16 • Luke 10:1-11, 16-20

### Sunday July 13

#### Fifth Sunday After Pentecost

Amos 7:7-17 Psalm 82 • Deuteronomy 30:9-14 Psalm 25:1-10  
• Colossians 1:1-14 • Luke 10:25-37

### Sunday July 20

#### Sixth Sunday After Pentecost

Amos 8:1-12 Psalm 52 • Genesis 18:1-10a Psalm 15 • Colossians 1:15-28  
• Luke 10:38-42

### Sunday July 27

#### Seventh Sunday After Pentecost

Hosea 1:2-10 Psalm 85 • Genesis 18:20-32 Psalm 138 • Colossians 2:6-15,  
(16-19) • Luke 11:1-13

### Sunday August 3

#### Eighth After Pentecost

Hosea 11:1-11 Psalm 107:1-9, 43 • Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14; 2:18-23  
Psalm 49:1-12 • Colossians 3:1-11 • Luke 12:13-21

### Sunday August 10

#### Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 1:1, 10-20 Psalm 50:1-8, 22-23 • Genesis 15:1-6 Psalm 33:12-22  
• Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16 • Luke 12:32-40

### Sunday August 17

#### Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 5:1-7 Psalm 80:1-2, 8-19 • Jeremiah 23:23-29 Psalm 82  
• Hebrews 11:29-12:2 • Luke 12:49-56

### Sunday August 24

#### Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

Jeremiah 1:4-10 Psalm 71:1-6 • Isaiah 58:9b-14 Psalm 103:1-8  
• Hebrews 12:18-29 • Luke 13:10-17

### Sunday August 31

#### Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

Jeremiah 2:4-13 Psalm 81:1, 10-16 • Sirach 10:12-18 or Proverbs 25:6-7  
Psalm 112 • Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16 • Luke 14:1, 7-14

A message from

# MISSIONS



Tote for Linda  
Davis

Food Pantry  
Donations

For July & August, the Pantry is asking for **cereal and granola bars and peanut butter & crackers and cheese & crackers packages**. The pantry has also asked if we can deliver them periodically during the month to be able to offer them to folks. So, as you grocery shop each week, add these 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.

## NO Community Suppers In July & August

Our Community Supper helpers will be taking a much needed break during July & August. Enjoy your summer and see you on Thursday, September 18th at 5:30 p.m.!

Save the Date for Our Next Red  
Cross Blood Drive  
Friday, October 17th  
11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.



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. Our next drive will take place on October 17th so watch for details.

## Church World Services Tool Sunday Celebrating All Men!

Father's Day Sunday, June 18th



Thank you to everyone who donated towards the Church World Services Tool Program. Your gift to CWS provides seeds, tools, and hope—empowering families to grow their own food and build a sustainable future. All are tools which help families around the world whether by planting gardens or rebuilding after disaster.

Please see the list of donations on the following page!

## Help Us Collect Items for Children Going to Camp HOPE America This Summer

We are collecting the items needed for eight children who will be going

to **Camp HOPE America** this summer. **Camp HOPE America**



is a week-long overnight camping program run by Safe Futures for the children in their programs. From their website, "**Camp HOPE America** is an evidence-based camping and mentoring program in the United States that focuses on children and teens exposed to domestic violence. The program aims to give youth a brighter future by fostering pathways to hope and healing. What sets **Camp HOPE America** apart is its trauma-informed approach, emphasizing the development of campers' character rather than their accomplishments. Each day, campers read about real people, not too much older than they are, who have overcome adversity, abuse, and other real-life challenges to show them that they are not alone, and that their past does not define their future. The program includes a week of overnight camp with various activities, such as field games, rock climbing, and art projects, designed to challenge campers to overcome fears and build resilience."

We have created tags which are hanging on the wall in Fellowship Hall, each listing a specific item needed. Please take a tag or two, shop for the item(s), and leave it in the one of the laundry basket which are in on the bench in the foyer



outside the offices by Sunday, July 27th.

All items need to be non-descript, no characters or special designs to insure children do not feel slighted by what others receive.

**Camp HOPE America** is just one of the many programs and resources Safe Futures provide to families and individuals affected by domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, and trafficking in southeastern Connecticut, including temporary housing.

Thank you for helping to make a difference in the lives of these children!

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

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.



## CWS Father's Day Tools Program

*Below is the list of donations received for tools program*

### Given By:

Chris & Meredith Schuft .....	Edward Slade, Howard Schuft Kenny Slade, & Skip Morrison
Kathy Fletcher .....	John Denning, Gary Lamon & Alan Sandford
Ellen Seeman .....	L. John Vogel
Carrie & Ken Burger .....	<a href="#">Dr. Wesley H. Rethwill. Sr.</a> , Dr. Wesley H. Rethwill. Jr., Lester Mehrtens, & Herb Burger
Jeanne Allyn .....	Joe Stribling, Vance George, & Mike Salley
Beth Smith .....	Wee Smith
Beth Ayer .....	Jack Ayer & Gil Bogart

### Given By:

Chris & Meredith Schuft .....	In Honor of: Gabe Schuft, Dan Petruzella, Bernie White, & Michael Aker
Kathy Fletcher .....	William Denning, Raymond Tabor, & Rodney Lamon
Ellen Seeman .....	Jonathan Bressler
Jeanne Allyn .....	Fred Allyn III
Beth Smith .....	Rob Ayer & Cormac Seely
Sara Holdridge .....	For hard working men

A total of \$630 was received to help CWS provide seeds, tools, and hope—empowering families to grow their own food and build a sustainable future.

*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.*



## FAQs on our New Alarm System

*When I enter the building, why does the panel near the entry door beep at me?*

Beeping at the panel warns you the zone you entered is armed. You have 30 seconds to disarm at the alarm panel before the alarm siren is triggered.

*When I exit the building and re-arm the zone, why does the panel again beep?*

Beeping now warns you the zone is armed. You have 60 seconds to exit. Opening the exit door after that will again trigger the alarm (after 30 seconds).

*What's the difference between arming "away" and arming "stay"?*

Arming away activates motion sensors as well as entry/exit doors, while arming stay excludes motion sensors. Stay mode is especially useful when you plan to be in the church alone for an extended period. Any visitor through an entry door will still need to disarm the system to prevent the siren from being triggered.

*Why is the siren immediately activated when I enter another zone through an interior door?*

If you enter an armed zone from an interior door, active motion sensors will immediately trigger

the alarm siren.

*Can I disarm multiple zones from a single panel?*

You can arm or disarm multiple (or all) zones from a single panel by entering the associated zone number(s). For example, to disarm zones 1, 2, and 3 simultaneously at the panel, enter your 4-digit PIN, then 1 (for OFF), then 123 (for all three zones), then press the star key (\*).

*Is there an easier way?*

An easier way to arm/disarm is by using the Total Connect app on your smart phone. If you haven't added this to your phone, ask Rob Burns to help set you up.

Also, there's a shortcut for arming a single zone only at the panel: just enter the number key (#), then 2 to arm away or #3 to arm in stay mode.

*Other questions or want to test yourself with system operation?*

Talk to Rob Burns at church or call anytime @860.235.3208

## Name Tags

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

Thank you!

## Safe Church Committee

Thank you to all who participated in the fire drill held on May 18, and to those who provided feedback. Your cooperation is appreciated. The feedback given will help us improve upon our evacuation plan.

In addition to organizing the fire drill, some of the other ways the Safe Church Committee has been working to keep our church safe include:

- Posting emergency phone numbers next to each of the fire pull alarms.
- Organizing a fire extinguisher demonstration after church on May 4th. Approximately 12 people attended. Thank you, Brian Johnson, for the demo and all the information provided.
- Creating Exit Plan maps with the route indicated to exit the building. These are posted in Fellowship Hall, Lester Room, Music Room, Library, Pastor's Office, Administrative Coordinator's Office, Crib Room, Social Hall, and the Sanctuary.
- Clearing out storage areas of any unnecessary items.

Any questions and/or concerns about church safety can be given to Rob Burns, Sue Burns, Dolly Hayes, Rev. Pat Liberty, or Beth Smith.

## Faith Formation and Sunday School



In June, Reverend Pat held a Communion and Baptism workshop. In Sunday School we were active gardeners, and children observed both the science and miracle of plants sprouting from seeds. To celebrate the diversity of God's creation, we decorated the pillars and tree between the Office and Fellowship Hall with rainbow ribbons. We read about the new commandment, to love one another as God loves us. We know that helping is a way of showing love. We reflected on the many ways that we helped others, even people who we do not know. In the fall, we raised funds for Heifer International, to send farm animals and seeds to people who live in the US and around the world. We do not know these people, but we knew that we could help them to raise their own food. Throughout the year, we have helped to collect and sort plastic caps, so that we can recycle them in exchange for a rainbow bench. We learned that people use a lot of plastic, that recycling helps the environment, and that it is fun to work on a project with others. It will take a long time to collect enough caps for the bench, but we can see that we are making progress.

As our garden is growing, we invite



you to stop by the church during the week to check on its progress, and to water the plants. We should have an assortment of squash, beans, flowers, and tomatoes ready for the picking as the summer progresses.

### Looking Ahead

- Kristie will continue to welcome children to the nursery on Sundays.
- **July 20**, is Women's Fellowship's all church picnic at Bluff Point. This will be a fun family event.

### All Visitors

Please press this button and Bridney will come and open the door for you! Have a key?



- Stay tuned for the announcement for this year's Homecoming at the end of the summer. Plans are evolving for a vibrant Sunday School, and we look forward to sharing them with you soon.

The next Faith Formation Meeting is Wednesday, July 9th at 12 noon.

Everyone is invited to attend.



### Ledyard Congregational 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!



### 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)

### 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.

## Join us! For a Pancake breakfast

### July 5th 7:30-10am

## Ledyard Congregational Church

### 722 Colonel Ledyard Hwy

**Thank You for Your Support!**  
**Proceeds Benefit Ledyard C.H.A.I.N. and Their Programs for Pets In Need**

## LCC SEMI ANNUAL MEETING

**OUR SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING WILL BE HELD ON SUNDAY, AUGUST 24TH FOLLOWING MORNING WORSHIP.**

**ALL ARE WELCOME!**

### WEDNESDAY MORNING'S BIBLE STUDY CONTINUES ON WEDNESDAY MORNINGS



**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!

All are welcome!





## What's Happening at LCC?

So much is taking place at church these days! We are a vibrant community doing lots of great things. Do you sometimes feel you don't know what's happening? This is just a reminder that there are great resources at your fingertips:

- **Weekly eblasts**—Thank you Bridney!
- **Church Chatter** – We can thank Meredith for this great resource to which she has included a very handy Table of Contents up front if you are short on time and looking for a specific topic
- **Church Council meeting minutes**—Thank you, Bobbi!
- **Annual Report** -this provides a wealth of information as to what our Boards and Committees do, financial information, and Board and Committee members as of the date of our annual meeting.

### How do I get these?

Eblast: you receive via email weekly

Church Chatter: you receive via email monthly and there are hard copies available at church in the Narthex, the Social Hall, on the table outside the church offices, and on the table in Fellowship Hall



# NO Community Suppers in July and August

Our Community Supper helpers will be taking a much needed break during July and August.

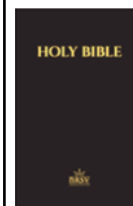
Enjoy your summer and see you on  
Thursday, September 18th  
at 5:30p.m.

Ledyard Congregational Church

Church Council meeting minutes: can be obtained by reaching out to Bridney at [ledyard.cong.church@gmail.com](mailto:ledyard.cong.church@gmail.com)  
Annual Report is printed and available outside Pat's office and is also available electronically by contacting Bridney at [ledyard.cong.church@gmail.com](mailto:ledyard.cong.church@gmail.com)

**Please also remember that Board meetings are open to all!**

## Bible 101



Do you wish you knew more about the bible? Then Bible 101 is for you. On Thursday July 10, 17, 24 and 31 Pastor

Pat will lead an in depth introduction to the bible. The group will meet from 7:00-8:30. It will be a fun time of fellowship and learning. Please join us!

# Women's FELLOWSHIP

After reaching the difficult decision to cancel the Strawberry Supper for 2025, Women's Fellowship members will be considering several options over the summer to reorganize our structure.

## SAVE THE DATE!

### Churchwide Picnic

Sunday, July 20th

11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.



We are planning a churchwide picnic for Sunday, July 20<sup>th</sup> at Bluff Point. Leslie Stasko and Kathy

Fletcher are coordinating the event along with Dolly and Faith Formations. It will be a potluck, with burgers supplied by Women's Fellowship. Hope you will join us for a delightful day of smiles and food.

Don't forget your beach toys and outdoor games. If you have a folding table, please bring that and your chair as well!

## Please Save Tuesday, August 19th for Our Annual Summer Meeting



We will be holding our annual meeting at Jill Thorne's home, 3

Adios Lane, Ledyard. The annual meeting had been held at Janet

Barnett's Long Pond cottage for many years. We will especially miss her as we gather.

We are planning a series of events throughout the 2025-2026 year. Including the Red Sleigh Bazaar in November, which will again be chaired by Sue Burns. Other events include luncheons out, fall and spring cheer baskets for people in need, partnership activities with local charities, and much more.

Please read the Chatter during the year for continuing news from Women's Fellowship.

HAPPY SUMMER!!

## Grandma's Attic

Saturday, July 12th

**Set up:** from 7:00-9:00 a.m.

**Shopping:** 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

**Clean up:** at 2:00 P.M.



We are now collecting "treasures" for the sale. Items can be dropped off in the Carriage House during the regular office hours, Monday through Thursday from 8:30 a.m.—1:30pm. Please make sure to clearly label items so we know they are for Grandma's Attic.

Please help us by dropping off only items which are resalable.

For questions please contact **Dolly Hayes at (860) 514-9303** or at [darling.hayes@comcast.net](mailto:darling.hayes@comcast.net)

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 Ledyard Congregational Church. Feel free to bring a friend!

## RED SLEIGH BAZAAR

**SATURDAY,**

**NOVEMBER 22**

**Crafting for Red Sleigh**

**Bazaar**

**Feeling crafty??**



We recently did some organizing in the Craft Room (located off of the

Music Room), and the table is completely cleared off now! Feel free to stop up, check out the supplies that are available, and create some items for our **Red Sleigh Bazaar**.

We will be scheduling some days/ nights for crafting, but **the room and supplies are available for any group that wants to get together at any time.**

Please direct questions to Andrea Barbour at [andreab0813@sbcglobal.net](mailto:andreab0813@sbcglobal.net) or (860) 857-6333.

## WEDNESDAY NIGHT BOOK STUDY GROUP

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

Our Wednesday night book group will **continue meeting on Wednesday evenings**. We have started a new book, **The False White Gospel: Rejecting Christian Nationalism, Reclaiming True Faith, and Refounding Democracy**, by Jim Wallis.

This is the perfect time to join in our lively, thought-provoking, and just fun discussions. All are welcome

Please enter through the atrium door by the church offices.

Hope to see you there!



## Prayer Vigils

**Our monthly Prayer Vigils are held on the fourth Thursday of the month.**

We invite you to join us in the sanctuary for prayer from 5:30-6:30 p.m.

On **Thursday, July 24th** we will pray for our immigrant community. On **Thursday, August 28th**, please join us in prayer for women and children.

## Our Whole Lives (OWL)

Last May, many of us attended the workshop offered by Reverend Melissa Spindler Smith. It was an introduction to the Our Whole Lives, a lifetime sexual education program designed collaboratively by United Church of Christ and Unitarian Universalist Association. The workshop was remarkable in that Reverend Spindler Smith spoke about the spirituality of our sexual identities in words that were matter-of-fact, and stripped of any elements of shame or blame. We learned that biological identification of sex isn't always clear at birth, as not all newborns fully display their genitalia. We learned about the conflict between one's internal sense of gender and societal norms as individuals grapple with their gender identity. We learned about fluidity, as not everyone experiences themselves as one gender or the other. We learned that societal norms don't make it safe for LGBTQ+ to be their god given selves. We learned about the importance of allowing individuals to name their

identities and to have those identities accepted and affirmed.

The UCC offers a collection of videos, Our Whole Lives, Taking Flight. They are a resource of ministers, scientists, authors, and psychologists addressing topics that will help families navigate conversations on sexuality and spirituality.

Have you ever wondered:  
What is my grandchild learning about spirituality and sexuality?  
How can I answer my child's questions about his or her body?  
How can I assure that my child or grandchild can talk to me about matters of intimacy?  
What are the barriers that LGBTQ+ people face?

As we are an Open and Affirming Church, you are encouraged to explore these resources at Our Whole Lives, Taking Flight: <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL6VgfHt6zEy7n42hGl14bEcQh85cbqa6>



## Confirmation Class

We are assessing interest in holding a confirmation class beginning in September. If you are interested, please contact Pastor Pat. Confirmation age is 12-15.

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



## From the Historian's Desk



When the residents of northern Groton began to agitate for a society of their own in 1724, so quickly after the formation of their town, Groton, and its church, they were probably aware of similar moves throughout the region. Eastern Connecticut in particular was constantly producing new government-approved churches (which generally led to Congregational churches) during the first half of the 1700s.

While there had been several such churches founded as early as the mid-1600s, they were usually along navigable waters, like the coastline or sizeable rivers (think Hartford, Windsor, Wethersfield, New Haven, Old Saybrook, Guilford, Norwich and New London). As settlers moved farther inland, and small communities grew large enough to support a local church, the ecclesiastical landscape was rapidly changing early in the next century.

I remembered that my childhood church, a little north of Norwich in Scotland, Connecticut, was founded around the same time as ours, so I looked up the details. The story was remarkably similar, even though they were not near a river the size of

the Thames. The town of Windham was set off in 1692 and immediately hired a pastor, Samuel Whiting, although the church there was not considered officially organized until 1700, when Rev. Whiting was finally ordained. Already settlers were arriving in the eastern portion of the new town and by 1731, they appealed to the General Assembly for separate society privileges.

Windham was no happier to lose part of their tax base than Groton had been six years earlier, and they objected, but permission for Scotland Society was granted at the May 1732 assembly. They met at first at a private home, that of Nathaniel Huntington (with toddler Samuel, future signer of the Declaration of Independence, Governor of Connecticut, and first "President of the United States of America in Congress Assembled," probably running around underfoot). A site in approximately the center of the society was chosen for a meetinghouse, on a lot provided by Mr. Huntington, and several potential ministers later, a permanent pastor was secured in 1735, Rev. Ebenezer Devotion, Jr., recently graduated from Yale, who stayed for the remainder of his life. Doesn't the pattern sound familiar?

It turns out many churches in this part of the state began between about 1710 and 1745, just one generation. I did a rough count from the sketches in "Contributions

to the Ecclesiastical History of Connecticut," published in 1861, and found about twenty-three new churches just in that period (1710-45) in southeastern Connecticut – some as new societies branching off as we did, some established along with new towns. There are many more nearby. We were in good company!

If you would like to browse some articles about early Connecticut Congregationalism, written from the perspective of the time, see the two-volume set in the history section of our Holdridge Library. Volume 1 was published in 1861 by the "General Association," and the second volume in 1967 by what had become the UCC Connecticut Conference.

Carol Ganz, LCC Church Historian

**SEPTEMBER** Chatter  
Deadline is **FRIDAY,**  
**AUGUST 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



### FIRST AID KITS

We'd like everyone to be aware that we have two First Aid Kits at LCC.

One is located above the AED (Automated External Defibrillator) which is in the hallway connecting Social Hall to the offices, and there is another in the kitchen with a sign above it.

These will be checked from time to time to be sure all supplies are in place, but if you notice something is needed, please let us know.

*The Safety Team*

*Beth Smith, Rob Burns, Sue Burns, Dolly Hayes and Reverend Pat.*



### Small Group Circle Ministry

The groups will commence in August and meet once a month. Participants are asked to make a six month commitment and then have the option to commit for a second six month period. The purpose of the groups is to foster fellowship and have a safe place to talk about life and faith. If you signed up, you will be assigned to a group.

We are still in need of a few folks to host the groups (about 7-9). If you are interested, please speak to Pastor Pat.



### What is an AED and Where is it in Our Church?

AED stands for Automated External Defibrillator and ours is currently located in the hallway connecting Social Hall to the office area. It is on the wall across from the Women's bathroom.

#### Why do we need this?

AEDs are used to help those experiencing sudden cardiac arrest. It is a sophisticated, yet easy to use medical device that can analyze the heart's rhythm and, if necessary, deliver an electrical shock to help the heart re-establish an effective rhythm. The device has clear audio instructions guiding the user through each step of the process.

Sudden cardiac arrest is among the leading causes of death in the United States. In fact, more than 350,000 people will suffer cardiac arrest this year. The American Heart Association estimates that expanding access to AEDs could potentially save 50,000 lives each year. Currently, the only way to restore a regular heart rhythm during cardiac arrest is to use an AED.

#### How do we know when someone is in sudden cardiac arrest?

Signs that someone may be in sudden cardiac arrest include

sudden collapse, unresponsiveness, and lack of normal breathing. The person may appear unconscious and not respond to verbal or physical stimuli. They may also have experienced dizziness, lightheadedness, extreme fatigue, weakness, nausea, or vomiting.

#### Summary

In an emergency always call 911 first. In the case of cardiac arrest begin CPR while someone else runs for the AED. For each minute defibrillation is delayed, the odds of survival are reduced by approximately 10%, so having access to an AED is critical.

*The Safety Team*

*Beth Smith, Rob Burns, Sue Burns, Dolly Hayes and Reverend Pat*



### 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.

## 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?"*

**The LCC Social Justice Team asks you to join us in prayer during the months of July and August.**

**Disability Pride Month**, a celebration of the contributions of people with disabilities began in 1990 after the passage of the American With Disabilities Act. People with disabilities make up 15% of the world's population, and are found in every race, ethnicity, gender, and socio-economic background. We pray that we will continue to affirm the value of our disabled family, celebrate their contributions, and actively seek to assure that they are treated with the dignity and respect that all of God's children deserve, especially at this time when budget cuts threaten the medical care, adaptive services, and inclusive programs that so many rely upon.

**International Day of Friendship**, was established by the United Nations in 2011 to promote peace by

deepening and building bridges of friendship between people, cultures, countries, and individuals. It is celebrated on July 30th. At this time of division in our nation and the world, may we reach out across the boundaries that divide us. May those who seek refuge on our shores find a welcoming and supportive community. May we learn to appreciate and value the rich and diverse tapestry of our Lord's creation. May we be guided to advocate for the welfare of people throughout the world.

### **International Day of World**

**Indigenous People**, is celebrated on August 9th and commemorates the first meeting of the UN Working Group on Indigenous Populations in 1982. According to the United Nations, there are over 200 groups of Indigenous People who live in isolation in forests throughout the world. They rely upon their unique and generationally developed relationship with nature for food, shelter, and medicine. The toll that the industrialized world takes on the ecology of the forests threatens their way of life. Dear Lord, we pray that we grow to respect the knowledge and contributions of these people. May they teach us to respect and care for the delicate balance of nature's ecosystems. May we take time to learn from their generational knowledge of living on the land, and that we may become better stewards of our

earth. May they feel the protection of a loving God and world.

**Women's Equity Day**, celebrated on August 26 in commemoration of the 1920 certification of the 19th amendment to the US constitution, giving women the right to vote. It became a nationally recognized day when congress passed Bella Abzug's bill in 1973, after two years of debate. While the 19th amendment secured voting rights for white women, it wasn't until the passage of the 1965 Voting Rights Act that women of color were assured equal access. As our nation debates the rights and roles of women, we ask that the Lord continue to protect and bless them, and to bring them into full participation in all aspects of our society. We pray that women continue to find their way in roles of leadership, sharing their knowledge and lived experiences, as we strive for the Justice of Jesus throughout the world. May women living under repression and in dangerous situations find protection and care.

### **PRIDE**

In June, the LCC Social Justice Team celebrated Pride Month in prayer, in our community, and at a Pride Potluck that followed our LCC UCC Open and Affirming Church Service. We thank all who joined us. We feel it is more important now than ever to act upon our Open and Affirming stance. When we became an Open and Affirming church in 2011, we



identified ourselves as a congregation that welcomes and affirms our LGBTQ+ family into all aspects of church life, celebrating that we are all one in Christ. As many churches are actively working to suppress gay and trans rights, and even overturn same-sex marriages, the Social Justice Team is committed to deepening our open and affirming stance. We ask you to join us through outreach, advocacy, and in prayer, to do all that we can to affirm and protect their civil rights remembering that we are all fearfully and wonderfully made by a loving God.

### Looking Ahead

**Monthly Prayer Vigil in the Sanctuary is held on the fourth of every month.**

- ★ **Thursday, July 26, 5:30-6:30,** please join us in prayer for our immigrant community.
- ★ **Thursday, August 28, 5:30-6:30,** please join us in prayer for women and children.

### Social Justice Team Monthly Meeting

We meet on the third Thursday of each month. Join us July 17th and again on August 21st at 4:40 p.m. in the Holdridge Library.



### We Value Your Ideas and Suggestions!!

#### WHO TO CONTACT?

Our church has been formed (and transformed) through the years from everyone's great ideas. We thank all of you for your input no matter how simple or involved your suggestions.

The best and most efficient way to get your ideas to become reality is by bringing them to the appropriate Board where you can find help: general support and discussion, possible funding ideas or sources, and helping hands at your fingertips.

Below is a guideline to help channel your communication. *Please also remember you are always welcome at the monthly meetings.*

### Deacons and Music

#### Suggestions for the worship service itself, sanctuary enhancements/ changes, and Sunday music

Worship: Sue Burns

[sebcpa@gmail.com](mailto:sebcpa@gmail.com)

(860) 235-6637

Music: Rob Ayer

[Springs57@comcast.net](mailto:Springs57@comcast.net)

(860) 917-7361

### Missions

#### Outreach missions within the church, the local community, and greater world

Meredith Schuft

[chrisandmeri@gmavt.net](mailto:chrisandmeri@gmavt.net)

(802) 363-3808

### Hospitality

#### Hospitality activities within the church and visitation

Jill Thorne

[gbthorne@sbcglobal.net](mailto:gbthorne@sbcglobal.net)

(860) 912-0924

### Trustees

#### Oversight of church property and financial issues

Property: Brian Johnson

(860) 235-1890

[bx2john@comcast.net](mailto:bx2john@comcast.net)

Finance: Jim Ball

[jimaball@earthlink.net](mailto:jimaball@earthlink.net)

(860) 694-8554

### Faith Formation

#### Christian Education within the church, from children to adult

Anita Merando

[armerando@gmail.com](mailto:armerando@gmail.com)

(845) 891-9303

### Stewardship

#### Developing a spirit of generosity and gratitude in the church

Chris Schuft

[chrisschuft@gmavt.net](mailto:chrisschuft@gmavt.net)

(802) 488-0802

### Calling All Boards!

Please remember to submit a copy of your monthly minutes to Bridney at [ledyard.cong.church@gmail.com](mailto:ledyard.cong.church@gmail.com).

As time allows, she is looking back to determine what minutes she is missing, so going forward maybe we can make that a non- issue for her.

Thank you!

# CHURCH PICNIC IN THE PARK

Join us for a delightful day of smiles and food.

Don't Forget Your **Beach Toys** and **Outdoor Games!**

If You Have An **Extra Folding Table**, Please Bring It!

**SUNDAY, JULY 20<sup>TH</sup> 2025**  
**11:30 AM - 1 PM AT BLUFF POINT STATE PARK**

  
**Location**

55 Depot Rd, Groton, CT 06340



**Keep Those Caps and Lids  
Coming  
For our Rainbow Bench!**



Not sure if a cap or lid is acceptable?

Check out our progress on the large chart on the table in Fellowship Hall. There is also a display showing all the types of caps and lids that are acceptable and be sure to take a flyer with you to refer to at home.

PLEASE MAKE SURE ALL CAPS AND LIDS ARE **CLEAN!**

Thank you from Missions and Faith Formation

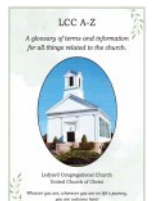
## Summer Music!

We have now moved into the "special music" portion of our church year. Neither the full voice choir nor bells choir will provide music over the summer. So any music during services, other than by Kimberly, will be provided by individuals or small groups/ensembles. And everyone is welcome and encouraged to do so. There is a poster in the Social Hall where you can sign up for a [Sunday](#), or you can tell Kimberly. You are also encouraged to discuss your intentions with Kim, for her awareness; plus, there may be "backup" (keyboard, flute, bass, guitar, ukulele, etc.) available to you, if you so desire.

## 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](mailto:fraugurusan@yahoo.com))

You can find a link to the document on the weekly E-blast!





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!



## Looking for Greeters

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

If you are interested being one of our happy and friendly greeters on Sundays, please speak with Beth Ayer after church or contact her via email:

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



## 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](mailto:fraugurusan@yahoo.com)).



## Join Us for Family Chime Time!

We are excited to invite you and your family to be a part of Family Chime Time, our new intergenerational handchime choir at Ledyard Congregational Church! This is a wonderful opportunity to make music together, strengthen our community, and share the joy of worship in a fun and engaging way.

Whether you're a seasoned musician or have never played an instrument before, Family Chime Time is open to everyone and we'll guide you every step of the way. Rehearsals will be held most Sundays directly after worship in the music room and we'll perform in worship services and special events throughout the year. We will also be coordinating with Faith Formation and our amazing Sunday School leaders in deciding the music that we will learn.

We will be offering a few "Sunday Samplers" throughout the summer. This will be a time when the music room is open and the chimes (maybe the bells, too!) and music will be out for exploration. Come ring a chime, look at the music, ask questions, and get a feel for what it might be like to make music with these unique instruments.

## Sunday Sampler dates:

July 13 & 27

August 3 & 17

## Who can join?

- All ages are welcome! Families, individuals, and friends from our congregation—no prior experience required.
- This is a perfect way to connect across generations, so bring your kids, your grandparents, or anyone else who loves to make joyful noise!

## When do we rehearse?

- **Most** Sundays directly after worship.

## Will we ring during worship services?

- Yes! We will decide those dates in advance, sometimes by ourselves and sometimes with the adult HandBell Choir.

## Do I have to come every Sunday?

- No! It is not a requirement, but consistent practice often makes a noticeable impact. And you may just find that it is so much fun you want to join each week!

Please direct any questions you might have to Bonnie Denton.

860.389.1862.



## Did You Know That We Have a Prayer Chain Ministry?

Our Prayer Chain Ministry consists of a group of people willing to take time to pray each week. The idea is that with more people involved in praying, the power of prayer is strengthened. I recently read this description of a prayer chain “in a prayer chain, each link represents one person committed to pray for the needs of others. The more “links” in the chain, the more people are praying for the needs or struggles of others. The imagery of a chain also underscores the strength of God’s people who are united in prayer.”

The Bible mentions prayer a lot, but prayer is much more than simply repeating words or wishful thinking. Prayer is talking and listening to God. Prayer, like a conversation, can be done at anytime, anywhere – because God is always with us and is always listening.

Many of us have personally felt the support of having numerous people praying for us, our families and friends and have been comforted by that. Additionally, it is comforting to those asking for prayers to know that others are praying for them. It becomes an effective way to let people share, receive, and pray for the needs of others.

### How do I submit a prayer request?

There are several ways to do so. You can email your request to: [prayerslcc@gmail.com](mailto:prayerslcc@gmail.com), call the church office at 860-464-9926, or drop your request in our Community Prayer Box found at the end of the driveway in the west parking lot (Social Hall side). Prayers may include prayers of celebration, of concern & healing and/or prayers of comfort. The deadline for prayer requests is each Wednesday at noon. All prayer requests will be gathered weekly and emailed to the members of our Prayer Chain Ministry.

You can send **urgent** and/or **confidential** prayer request at any time to [prayerslcc@gmail.com](mailto:prayerslcc@gmail.com) and indicate if it should be shared on Sunday morning and/or with the Prayer Chain email list.

If you are interested in learning more about joining our group of people who are committed to take time each week to lift up the pray requests, please email Sue Burns at: [sebcpa@gmail.com](mailto:sebcpa@gmail.com); or via phone at: 860-235-6637 and/or Meredith Schuft at email: [chrisandmeri@gmavt.net](mailto:chrisandmeri@gmavt.net) or phone 802-363-3808.

Thank you and take care  
Meredith



## 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, July 5th

The featured CHAIN—Citizens Helping Animals In Need!

### Saturday, August 2nd

The featured organization is LICEAF—Ledyard Inter-Church Emergency Assistance Fund

### Saturday, September 6th

Will be in celebration of LCC’s 300th anniversary

### Saturday, October 4th

The featured organization is the Gales Ferry/Ledyard CROP Walk.

### Saturday, November 1st

Will be in support of the Linda Davis Food Pantry.

**ALL ARE WELCOME!**

# THE BILL DINNER



Hon. Henry Bill

We invite you to become a part of Ledyard history by attending the re-enactment of the *Bill Dinner*, an annual event throughout much of our history.

Enjoy a traditional clam chowder dinner while celebrating 300 years of LLC and 300 years of the community, that later became Ledyard and hearing of our militia's role in the Revolutionary War and Henry Bill's gift of a library to the people of Ledyard.

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 20<sup>TH</sup> 2025 AT 1 PM**

**UNDER THE HOLDRIDGE PAVILION IN**

**LEDYARD CENTER**

**THERE WILL BE A FREE WILL OFFERING TO PAY FOR THE DINNER**

No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you're welcome here.



**Jesus didn't reject people.  
Neither do we.**

ucc.org

# *Church Chatter*

## *July & August 2025*

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

### **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

## *July & August 2025*



Time Dated Material  
Return Service Requested