



Church Chatter

June 2025

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

In This Issue

A Message from Pastor Pat	1-2
June Birthdays & Anniversaries	2
Keep in Your Prayers	2
Blessings for our Members who Serve	3
Writing Group	3
Pastor's Office Hours	3
June Scripture Readings	3
Chatter Deadline	3
Door Bell	3
Missions	4-5
Church Calendar	5
Hospitality Visitation Groups	5
Alarm Q&A	6
Wear Your Name Tag	6
Safe Church Committee	6
Faith Formation & Sunday School	7
Our O&A Statement	7
Wednesday Morning Bible Study	7
Logging into Zoom for Worship	8
Chatter on the Church Website	8
CWS Blankets List	8
What's Happening at LCC	9
June Community Support	9
Bible 101	9
Women's Fellowship	10
Caps & List Sorting Party	10
Confirmation Class	10
Wednesday Night Book Study Group	11
Prayer Vigil	11
OWL	11
Class of 2025	11
Pastoral Care	11
From the Historian's Desk	12-13

Open & Affirming Sunday	13
What is an AED?	13
Prostate Cancer Support Group	13
Social Justice Team	14
Take Care	
First Aid Kits	15
Small Group Ministry	15
Proper Church Channels	15
June 1st Service in Fellowship Hall	15
June is Elder Abuse Awareness Month	16
A Message from Music Ministry	16
Volunteers Come in All Sizes	17
June Pancake Breakfast	18
Red Sleigh Bazaar	18
Pancake Breakfast	18
Family Communion and Baptism Workshop	18
Looking for Greeters	19
Bill Dinner	19
Tool Kit Order Form	19



A Message From Pastor Pat

Lingering Questions

Thanks to all who participated in the Peace and Reconciliation process. Over the last months many of you invested a significant amount of time and energy to see the work through. Now, we get to put into practice what we have learned. Here's a summary

- The church functions as a system. Change in one area produces change in the entire system.
- Conflict is a normal part of church life.
- Conflict and change are ten percent what happens and ninety percent how we handle it.
- Change can bring conflict. Conflict can bring change.
- Conflict is an opportunity to evaluate the system, look at what brought the conflict forward and take steps to change the system.
- When anxiety rises in the church there is a tendency to create triangulating conversations. When you are upset with someone, talk directly to them.
- Correct misinformation and gossip when you hear it.
- Everyone has a personal style of managing conflict. How we are when things are calm may not be the way we are when things are conflicted. Understanding and managing our own anger and anxiety is a personal responsibility that benefits the whole.
- Staying focused on mission helps the system maintain stability.

Continued on page 2

Continued from page 1

- In healthy churches people challenge people.
- In healthy churches people promote health by their own presence and functioning.
- The Minister's Code of Ethics and the Congregation's Code of Ethics in relationship to the pastor are important guidelines for staying in right relationship.

We identified six areas of our shared life that need work: Communication, Relationship with Pastor, Governance, Open and Affirming Identity and Adult Faith Formation. Work groups formed around each area and will bring proposals to Council address each area of concern.

Still, with all we have learned, done and accomplished there are lingering questions, some issues that were not talked about. For that reason, I am scheduling a session for Lingering Questions when I return from vacation. Stay tuned for date and time. Anyone who has a lingering question or concern is welcome to attend. Everything is on the table. No topics are off limits. I will engage leaders, past and present to engage in discussion in an effort to address lingering questions and concerns.

Interim time is the time to poke every single pile of stuff and get it out in the open. If YOU have lingering questions or concerns,

please plan to attend this session. I will get it on the calendar as soon as I return from vacation.

Faithfully,
Pastor Pat

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



June Birthdays

Marie Olson	6/1
Erik Schilke	6/2
Joyce Garstka	6/5
Aimee Belhumeur	6/6
Charlotte Gross	6/8
Beth Smith	6/10
Lisa Curtis	6/12
Kevin Smith	6/12
Tammy Austin	6/14
Erin Geer	6/14
James Hansen	6/18
Bill Dawson	6/20
Terry Fedors	6/20
John Clark	6/23
Heidi Seaton	6/23
Kate Seely	6/25
Meredith Schuft	6/26
Rich Potter	6/29
Jim Austin	6/29
Sue Johnson	6/29



June Anniversaries

Dale & Sharon Bennett	6/1
Jeff & Becky Rust	6/3
Dave & Mary Foltz	6/9
Neal & Carol Ganz	6/20
Bill & Ellen Seeman	6/22
Rob & Beth Ayer	6/27
Patrick & Johanna Nolan	6/27

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



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

Troy Hedman Kyle Murphy
Tye Frazer Oliver Murphy



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!

From the Pastor's Desk

Office Hours

Pastor Pat is on vacation through Sunday, June 15th
Hours resume Monday, June 16th
Mondays, Wednesdays & Thursdays
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

June Scripture Readings

Sunday June 1

Seventh Sunday of Easter

Acts 16:16-34 • Psalm 97 • Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21
• John 17:20-26

Sunday June 8

Day of Pentecost

Acts 2:1-21 or Genesis 11:1-9 • Psalm 104:24-34, 35b • Romans 8:14-17
or Acts 2:1-21 • John 14:8-17, (25-27)

Sunday June 15

Frist Sunday after Pentecost

Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31 Psalm 8 • Romans 5:1-5 • John 16:12-15

Sunday June 22

Second Sunday after Pentecost

1 Kings 19:1-4, (5-7), 8-15a Psalm 42 and 43 • Isaiah 65:1-9

Sunday June 29

Third Sunday after Pentecost

2 Kings 2:1-2, 6-14 Psalm 77:1-2, 11-20 • 1 Kings 19:15-16, 19-21
Psalm 16 • Galatians 5:1, 13-25 • Luke 9:51-62



JULY/AUGUST Chatter

Deadline is **SUNDAY, JUNE 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

All Visitors

Please press this button and Bridney will come and open the door for you!

Have a key?

Please press the button and let her know you will be letting yourself in!

Thank you



Press Here to summon Bridney

A message from

MISSIONS

Tote for Linda Davis
Food Pantry Donations

For June, the Pantry is asking for

Vegetable Oil no larger than 48Oz.

smaller is better and **Baked Beans**.

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.

June Community Supper

Thursday June 19th

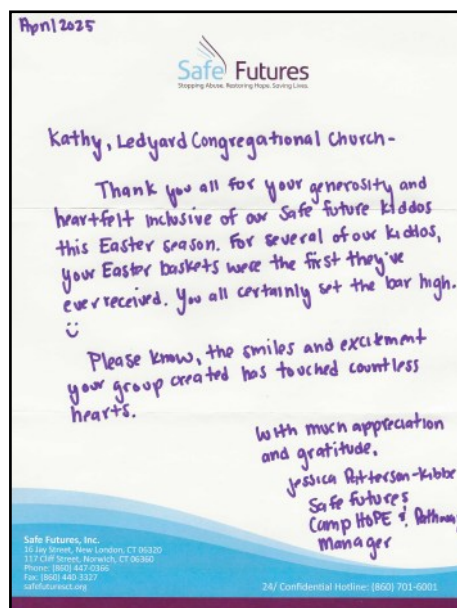
5:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall

Our June theme is **Summer Picnic**. 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!

Easter Baskets for Safe Futures

Thank you to everyone who helped us fill 36 Easter Baskets for the children living in Safe Futures housing. Joe and Michelle Damm were able to provide another 30 baskets with help from Beth Smith to deliver them and the Adventure Club helping to cover the costs. In the end, all 66 children received a basket! This was the first time nine of these children had ever received an Easter basket. See the thank you note we received and thank you for helping make a lot of kids smile!



May 7th Red Cross Blood Drive



We had a goal of 22 pints and collected 32!

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 in September so watch for details.

World Services

Blanket Sunday

Celebrating All Women

Mother's Day Sunday, May 12th

We had a very successful **Church World Services Blanket Drive** receiving \$995.00 in donations which Missions will add \$5 to bring the total to \$1,000.00! or 100 blankets! Last year we raised \$690. Thank you all for helping "*blanket the world in love*" and making this by far our most successful Blanket Sunday!

Strengthen the Church Special
Missions Offering Will be Received
on Pentecost Sunday, June 8th

We invite you all to wear red in celebration of Pentecost!

Our second special Missions offering for 2025 and one of the four United Church of Christ (UCC) annual offerings funded through donations received from congregations is **Strengthen the Church (STC)**. "The Strengthen the Church offering supports the expansion of ministry and growth of UCC local congregations. Your support of this offering will help the UCC fulfill its commitment to creating a just world for all by investing in new ministries and practices that meet the emerging needs of local communities.

As God calls our congregations to be the church in new ways, your generosity will plant new churches, awaken new ideas in existing churches and develop the spiritual life in our youth and young adults." Thank you for supporting this important mission of the United Church of Christ!

Church World Services Tool Sunday
Celebrating All Men!
Father's Day Sunday, June 18th



The theme for 2025 is "Grow a Harvest of Hope". 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. Give today and help cultivate a **Harvest of Hope**.

Please help by participating in the Church World Services (CWS) Tool Drive by making a \$10.00 donation in memory of or in honor of someone. An order form is available on page 19 and also on the table in Fellowship Hall along with Tool gift cards for you to send an acknowledgment of your gift. 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 (802)363-3808 and/or Jill Thorne at gbthorne@sbcglobal.net (860) 912-0924

Thank you from your Board of Missions



Ledyard Congregational Church Calendar

Our church calendar is on our website: ledyardcongregational.org and also on Breeze! The calendar is updated frequently so be sure to check it out often.

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

Hospitality Visitation Group Visits Bring Joy and Encouragement

The following article is an adaptation of one that first appeared in The Chatter last fall. There has been very little response to the central idea of an intentional effort to visit people who might welcome being remembered or who may have a particular need that a visit could help address.

The LCC Hospitality Committee, which is part of Church Council, is developing a visitation group. This committee is chaired by Jill Thorne and I am inviting you to join in spreading cheer all year long through visits to members of our congregation who may welcome a smiling visitor.

I need to know who in the congregation might be interested

in making those visits. There is no specific commitment. Visitors will have the opportunity to sign up to make visits to specific people or simply as needed.

Many members of the congregation already make visits to others in need of companionship or encouragement. It would be helpful if the Hospitality Committee could keep track of those folks too, just so we know they are being visited.

Pastor Pat is planning to assist us, not only with people to put on our list, but she will also give us some pointers and ideas about visiting that should be helpful to all of us.

If you would like to be part of the visitor group, please contact Jill Thorne at 860-912-0924, or gbthorne@sbcglobal.net.

Let's make this work!!



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).

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



May was a busy month! Thank you to all of the families who joined us for a practice fire drill and pizza lunch. We learned to follow an adult to the pole barn on the Village Green and wait patiently for our parents to meet us.

We celebrated Bible Sunday. For months preceding this May 11th service, the children identified a number of different Bibles, and teachers and students read from the scripture readings that were studied in the Church Service. Children are curious about the bible, the people in it, the stories it holds and the lessons it teaches. As we all learn about our loving God, we are also learning that we are honoring God when we love one another. Working together to plant a garden, sharing ideas with each other, and listening to and helping each other are all ways that we love God. Each child in Sunday School received either a Jesus Storybook Bible, or the NRSV Bible to read on their own and with their families.

We also continued planting our garden. May was the right time to put our plants outdoors in the raised beds. As we care for them, we look forward to watching them grow. Be sure to check out our progress.

June will wind down Sunday School for the Summer. The first Sunday of the month the children will celebrate Communion Sunday with the congregation. In Sunday School we will continue reading scripture, working in our garden, and learning from each other the many ways that we can be helpers in the world.

Faith Formation will be helping with the All Church BBQ Women's Fellowship is planning for Sunday, July 20th. Save the date and watch for more details.

Our children are helpers in so many ways. Thank you to Quinn, Jack, and Luca for helping at the May Pancake Breakfast.



The next Faith Formation Meeting is Wednesday, June 11th at 12 noon.

Everyone is invited to attend.

O & A Statement

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.

This was adopted at the 2010 Annual Meeting.

WEDNESDAY MORNING'S BIBLE STUDY



Wednesday morning Bible Study is taking a few weeks off and will **resume on Wednesday, June 18th** in the Holdridge library. Each week we meet from 10:30 — 11:30 a.m. and discuss the scripture for the upcoming Sunday in a relaxed and fun setting.

All are welcome!

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

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.



Mother's Day 5/11/25. Below is the list of donations received for blankets!

Given By:

Jane Bliven Kenneth Bliven, Jr.
 Meredith & Chris Schuft Betty Schuft, Alison Slade, Susan Morrison
 Kathy Fletcher Dorothy Denning, Joanne Pirnie, Meredith McClean
 Beth Smith Jane Smith
 Ellen Seeman..... Margaret Vogel
 Carrie & Ken Burger..... Carol Rethwill, Estelle Rethwill, Agnes Mehrtens
 Ray & Judy Hasson Ray & Elsie Hasson, Joe & Dot Shabbott
 Jody Lees..... Louise Jackson
 Beth & Rob Ayer..... Peg Ayer & Sue Bogart (our mothers)
 Linda Simmons & Robert Hooper..... Dotty Simmons
 Jeanne Allyn Maralouise Stribling, Helen George, Ethel Salley
 Leslie Stasko, Aric Wellman & Xander ... Melanie Miller (Aric's mom)

Given By:

Kathy Fletcher Kelly Tabor, Patti Thomson, Denine Ducheman, Amy Bray
 Chris & Meredith Schuft Stacey Petruzella, Jammie Murphy, Kathy White, Dana Aker
 Ellen Seeman..... Sara Bressler, Stephanie Seeman
 Carrie & Ken Burger..... Mary Burger, Kathy Green
 Sara Holdridge..... Nurturing Women in my Life
 Beth & Rob Ayer..... Kate Seely & Emily Thomas (our daughters who are also mothers)

Stephen & Dolly Hayes and several anonymous donations for a total of \$1,000.00! or 100 Blankets!

Thanks also to everyone who wore a hat in memory of Ruth Celotto!



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

JUNE COMMUNITY SUPPER

Summer Picnic

ALL ARE
WELCOME!
THURSDAY, JUNE 19, 2025
FREE!

Come and join us for a summer picnic!
As always there will be vegetarian options,
breads, salads, plus desserts!

.....

Ledyard Congregational Church
Fellowship Hall

Supper will be served at 5:30pm.

This FREE supper is open to all!

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

Church Council meeting minutes: can be obtained by reaching out to Bridney at 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

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

Tuesday May 13th Meeting

We had a lively and productive discussion at our final meeting of the 2024-25 year with some good ideas and suggestions where we hold onto everything that has made our fellowship a special and treasured time together, while planning a new and exciting way forward. Our next meeting will take place sometime in August. Stay tuned for more information!

Saturday, May 17th Bake Sale

We were able to once again hold a bake sale during the Ledyard Garden

Club's Annual Plant Sale. We raised \$966.50! Thank you to Jeanne Allyn and Jane Bliven for coordinating the event. It couldn't have happened without them! Thank you also to everyone who made salads, baked beans, and all the other baked good and helped out at the sale.



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 at the Carriage House during the regular office hours, Tuesday,



Wednesday, & Friday from 8:30 a.m.—2:30pm. 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 by email at **darling.hayes@comcast.net**

SAVE THE DATE Sunday July 20th

Women's Fellowship is planning an All Church BBQ for Sunday, July 20th.

Save the date and watch for more details.



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!

If you have any questions, comments, or ideas for topics you think would be interesting, please feel free to contact me.

Meredith Schuft

Email: chrisandmeri@gmavt.net

Save the Date! Sorting Party

Sunday, June 8th

Keep Those Caps and Lids Coming
for our Rainbow Bench!



Our next **Sorting Party** will take place on **Sunday, June 8th** following our morning worship service. We have BAGS of caps and lids to sort, so please plan on staying to help out. As you can see from the photo, it's a simple process which everyone can do. We have over 30lbs towards our 200lb goal so let's see how many more pounds we can add to our total on the 8th.

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**!

Thank you from Missions and Faith Formation



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.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT BOOK STUDY GROUP 7:00-8:00 p.m. in the Holdridge Library

Our Wednesday night book group will **resume meeting on Wednesday June 18th**. We will be starting 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 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!



Prayer Vigil

Beginning June 26th and continuing on the fourth Thursday of each month, you are invited to participate in a prayer vigil. The sanctuary will be open for prayer from 5:30-6:30. The Social Justice Team is choosing themes for each month. June is prayer for those in the LGBTQI+ community who are facing the rollback of civil rights.

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>

Congratulations to the Class of 2025

Hilary K. Bareiss, John and Donna Clark's granddaughter is graduating with honor from the University of Hartford. Also, grandson Kyle D. Clark is graduating from Vernon High School.



Pastoral Care

Reverend Greer will be filling in while Pastor Pat is on vacation. If you are in need of pastoral care, please call the church office during regular office hours, Mon. — Thurs. 8:30am to 1:30pm 860 464-9926. For after hours, please call Sue Burns 860-235-6637.

From the Historian's Desk



In May, 1725, the General Assembly chose to consider the petition of the northern residents of Groton, in spite of the objections of the town. To examine the pros and cons, they formed a committee of three men from the eastern half of the state to look into the question: Was there justification for a new society to be formed, setting off the north portion of the Town of Groton?

The three men given this assignment, Capt. Timothy Peirce of Plainfield, Capt. Thomas Noyes of Stonington and Mr. Joseph Bacchus of Norwich, had until October to examine the facts and make a recommendation. Who were these three men who held our future in their hands?

Capt. Timothy Peirce (sometimes spelled Pierce) (1675-1748) was born in Plainfield, Connecticut, and apparently lived his whole life there. In 1725 he would have been about fifty years old, living with his second wife and several children. Although he was known as Captain Peirce in 1725, by the time he died in 1748 he was a Colonel. I hoped his will and probate inventory would give us a clue about his occupation, but it

didn't, other than that he had five horses, six cattle and six swine, so perhaps he was a moderately well-off farmer. He did have some nice things (clock, looking glass, silver spoon), but not a huge collection. He was, however, a slaveholder. The most valuable "possession" in his inventory was a "Negro boy," and he willed to his daughter Phebe "my Negro girl Dinah."

Capt. Thomas Noyes (1679 -1755) was born in Stonington about five years after his father Rev. James Noyes was ordained there at First Congregational Church (the "Road Church"). James was a chaplain in the Narragansett War and was also a founder of Yale College, both of which probably had an influence on his son Thomas. In 1705 Thomas married Elizabeth Sanford, apparently the daughter of Rhode Island Gov. Peleg Sanford. Joshua Hempstead, the famous diarist from New London, comments on being in Stonington on May 1, 1723, when it was a training day and Thomas Noyes was chosen Captain. He was probably about 43 then, and 45 when he served on the committee regarding North Groton. His will provides generous bequests to his wife, his children and grandchildren, including cash and several parcels of real estate in Stonington and Westerly. The inventory of his estate shows that he had a large quantity of silver, clothing and other valuable goods including bills of

credit and bonds from numerous people. He, too, was a slaveholder, and listed an elderly enslaved man named Jeffrey, a man named Peter and an "Indian boy Jonathan."

Mr. Joseph Bacchus (various spellings) (1667-1740) was born in Norwich, marrying a local girl, Elisabeth Huntington, in 1690, and continuing to live in Norwich the rest of his life. The oldest of the three committeemen at 58, he had a history of interest in religious issues. A controversy in the Norwich church about ten years earlier had threatened to split the town and Joseph Backus had traveled to both Ipswich, Mass., and Boston to get advice. He was involved in the controversy with the Rogerenes, who refused to observe the Sabbath, and as judge he sentenced them to fines or a whipping. In April 1730 all the Norwich freemen were listed. "The first on the list and probably so placed in respect to age and dignity, were Joseph Backus, Esq..." followed by the three ministers. (Esq. at the time denoted a Justice of the Peace).

Joseph's son Simon married Eunice Edwards, sister of the famous Rev. Jonathan Edwards. Simon had graduated from Yale in 1724, and was one of the early preachers we had (1726) while the Ecclesiastical Society searched for a settled minister. (Simon later went as a chaplain with Connecticut troops to Cape Breton and died in 1746 during

that expedition). It is clear that Joseph had considerable respect, as well as real estate, listed out in detail in his will.

The three well-respected men chosen must have spent a substantial amount of time here in northern Groton doing their research, and completed their report in time for the October General Assembly session.

Carol Ganz,
Church Historian



June 29th is Open and Affirming Sunday

Throughout the United Church of Christ, Open and Affirming churches will celebrate their welcome to those in the LGBTQI+ community. We will join our sister churches in celebration, including reading our Open and Affirming Statement during worship.

Following worship on June 29th, we will hold an **All Church Potluck!** Please join in a time of fellowship as we share a potluck lunch.



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 LCC 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 month of June.

National Caribbean American Heritage Month

We offer prayers of gratitude and celebration to Caribbean Americans who come from more than a dozen nations and US Territories, enriching our cultural tapestry, and bringing their contributions to every aspect of our lives. President Bush signed the proclamation designating June as a month to celebrate Caribbean Heritage in 2006. May we take time to see, appreciate and learn more about our Caribbean American family. May they know and experience our love, appreciation, and protection.

National Immigration Heritage Month

As a nation of immigrants, the United States is a rich tapestry of people and cultures. In 2014, President Obama signed a proclamation honoring the vital role

that immigration plays in our country. We thank God for the diversity of our country, and pray that immigrants know that our nation is deeply indebted to all that they contribute to every aspect of American life. We recognize the courage it takes to immigrate, and pray that the love of God protects and comforts those who face uncertain status. We pray that the Lord guides us toward a compassionate response to all immigrants. May we remember and act upon God's command to welcome the stranger.

National Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer Pride Month

The rights of the LGBTQ+ community to live openly and freely as their God-given selves are still not fully recognized in America, though National Pride month was first proclaimed by President Bill Clinton in 1998. The Supreme Court legalized same sex marriages in 2015, yet Justices Thomas and Alito continue to question the decision. Currently the medical care and ability to serve in the military are being denied or restricted. During this National LGBTQ+ Month may we take time to learn the lived stories of our LGBTQ+ family. May God open our hearts to the many ways that we can show up as allies, deepening our open and affirming church stance. May we all see our LGBTQ+ friends and family, as well

as ourselves, as born in the image of our loving God.

Looking Ahead

Please mark your calendars and join us for the following events.

Thursday, June 26th @ 5:30-6:30

Prayer Hour in celebration of and for concerns and care for our LGBTQ+ family.

Saturday, June 28 SJT will support the Town of Ledyard's Community Relation Committee Pride

Celebration on the Town Green.

More information will follow as the event gets closer.

Sunday, June 29th is UCC Open and Affirming Sunday. We will celebrate with a Pot Luck following the Sunday Service.

Social Justice Team Monthly Meeting

We meet on the third Thursday of each month. Join us June 19th at 4:40 p.m. in the Holdridge Library.



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



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.



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
(860) 235-6637

Music: Rob Ayer
Springs57@comcast.net
(860) 917-7361

Missions

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

Meredith Schuft
chrisandmeri@gmavt.net
(802) 363-3808

Hospitality

Hospitality activities within the church and visitation

Jill Thorne
gbthorne@sbcglobal.net
(860) 912-0924

Trustees

Oversight of church property and financial issues

Property: Brian Johnson
(860) 235-1890
bx2john@comcast.net

Finance: Jim Ball
jimaball@earthlink.net
(860) 694-8554

Faith Formation

Christian Education within the church, from children to adult

Anita Merando
armerando@gmail.com
(845) 891-9303

Stewardship

Developing a spirit of generosity and gratitude in the church

Chris Schuft
chrisschuft@gmavt.net
(802) 488-0802

REMINDER!



ON SUNDAY JUNE 1ST, SERVICE WILL
TAKE PLACE IN FELLOWSHIP HALL.



June is Elder Abuse Awareness Month and June 15th is **World Elder Abuse Awareness Day**. It is estimated that 5 million, or 1 in 10 older adults are victims of elder abuse, exploitation or neglect. It is widely believed that elder abuse is significantly under reported.

Elder abuse includes self-neglect. When older adults are no longer able to properly care for themselves, their physical surroundings may be in disarray. Spoiled food or lack of food also signals an inability to adequately care for themselves. Unpaid bills, prescriptions that are not up to date, wearing soiled clothes, wearing seasonally inappropriate clothing, and hoarding behavior are all signs of self-neglect.

Elder abuse also includes financial abuse/scams. Using the money or property of adults with disabilities and adults over 65, for personal gain and without their informed consent is a crime. Informed consent means that the elder has the cognitive ability to consent to the use of their funds. Older adults with mild to moderate memory impairment are

at increased risk for financial exploitation.

Elder abuse includes physical, emotional and sexual abuse. Abuse can be perpetrated by family members, neighbors, and paid caregivers. There are a few physical signs to be aware of; unexplained bruises, reports of recent falls and sudden weight loss. Those at risk or those being abused may be reluctant to disclose their abuse due to fear, embarrassment and feelings of powerlessness. Establishing a caring relationship through time can help elders feel safe being honest about their situations.

Elder abuse and self-neglect are reportable, just like child abuse. In Connecticut the number to call to report the suspicion of abuse and self-neglect is 1-888-385-4225, and you can report anonymously. Everyone is a mandated reporter. It is a legal as well as a moral obligation.

Jesus often spoke of the child and the widow in his teachings. This was code language for the most at risk and vulnerable populations. Not much has changed in two thousand years. Caring for the most vulnerable in our midst is an act of faith and a point toward justice. We all play a role in caring for the most vulnerable members of our community. If you see something, say something!

A Message From Your Music Ministry

The May pancake breakfast netted the Music Ministry over six hundred dollars to augment the regular budget for music and equipment. Many thanks to Dolly and the kitchen crew who whipped up the food, and to the music supporters who served tables, provided tech support, and made music. A good time was had by all! Especially now that summer is arriving, if you have any special music you'd like to provide during a worship service, please mention it to Music Director Kimberly Perteet, and we should be able to provide you with any type of support you'd like. -- Rob Ayer

*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.*

LCC Volunteers Come in All Ages

In December of 2024, Gabriela introduced the children in Sunday School to a project that she felt passionate about. Through Gabriela we learned that instead of attending school, young girls in South Sudan walked miles daily to collect water for their family and village. Dolly and Anita urged Gabriela to share her concerns with Missions, and that was the beginning of a project that took almost 1.5 years to complete. Now that the Team Ledyard well is established in South Sudan, Gabriela has taken time to reflect on her project and what she has learned. Here is what Gabriela has to say about her experience.

What inspired you to share **A Long Walk to Water** and begin a fundraising campaign for wells in S. Sudan?

We read the book at home and I told Dolly and Anita about it at Sunday School. They offered the idea that we could do a pancake breakfast to raise money. At first the goal was to make \$1000. A lot of people came and people were generous. I also got invitations that day to speak at church and at the Rotary Club. By then we were determined to raise \$10,000 so we could see the project get completed.

One thing the book made me think about was that a lot of times girls

my age can't go to school because they need to spend all day walking to get water for their families. When there's a well nearby, they don't need to do that. They have more opportunities. Everyone should be able to go to school.

How did you overcome concerns that you might have had about doing this project, like talking in public?

I don't usually like talking in public. But when I got invited to speak at church and Rotary, I tried to remember who I was doing it for. It wasn't about me. It was for the people who needed the well. That made me feel stronger.

What did you learn about yourself?

I learned that I can take a small idea and keep building on it step by step until all of a sudden it's done.

What did you learn about the importance of helping others?

When I did this project to help the village in South Sudan, I helped myself too because it made me feel like I was doing something important. That makes me feel confident and proud.

Was there anything about this project that surprised you?

A lot of people helped with this project. I like that I got to know more people at church.

What are you most enthusiastic

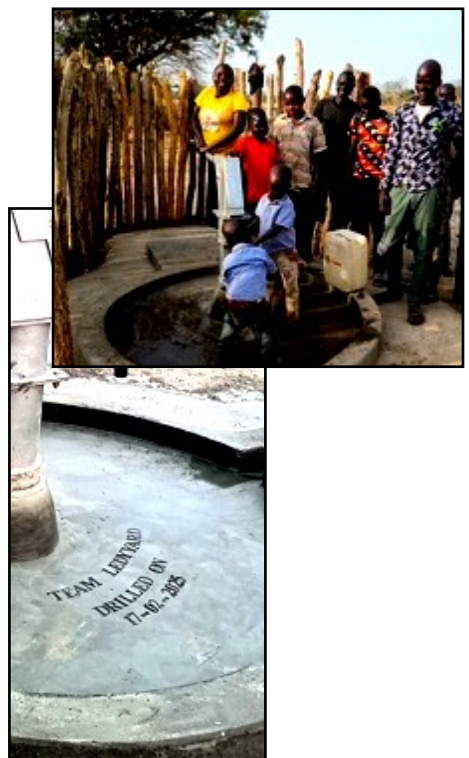
about or proud about doing this project?

I feel like we made a difference. Maybe now there are kids going to school who couldn't go before. We did that, and that feels great.

Do you have any plans for a new project or other things that you want to pursue?

I want to support other people at church who have ideas they're passionate about. I can help them just like everyone helped me. That's what I like about church.

Congratulations, Gabriela! Your passion, persistence, and willingness to put yourself out there in pursuit of a just cause is an inspiration to all of us. We also congratulate you on the award presented to you by the Rotary. You are a blessing!



June Pancake Breakfast

Come and help support the Ledyard Parks & Rec



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

Ledyard Congregational Church
Fellowship Hall.

Enjoy a delicious **FREE**
breakfast of fresh hot
coffee, orange juice,
pancakes, sausage,
scrambled eggs, and
chip beef!

All profits from donations
will go to Ledyard Social
Services Camp Scholarship
Fund helping to send
children to summer camp!

Camps will run from
June 23rd—August 8th
For all children ages 4-13!
* Popcorn Kernels (ages 4-6)
at Gallup Hill School
* Colonels (ages 7-9)
at Ledyard Middle School
* Super Colonels (ages 10-13)
at Colonel Ledyard Park

For more information Contact
Kristen Chapman
Social Services Coordinator
860-464-3222



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, June 7th

The featured organization is the
Ledyard Social Services Camp
Scholarship Program.

Saturday, July

The featured CHAIN—Citizens
Helping Animals In Need!

ALL ARE WELCOME!

RED SLEIGH BAZAAR



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 or
(860) 857-6333.



Family Communion and Baptism Workshop June 22nd

There will be a family communion
and baptism workshop June 22nd
following worship. If you are
interested in learning more about
the two sacraments we celebrate,
please join us for this workshop.

Everyone is welcome.



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 or by phone: [\(860\) 608-5951](tel:8606085951).

THE BILL DINNER



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 20TH 2025 AT 1 PM
UNDER THE HOLDRIDGE PAVILION IN
LEDYARD CENTER
THERE WILL BE A FREE WILL OFFERING TO PAY FOR THE DINNER



Church World Services (CWS) Tool Sunday — 2025



From now through Sunday June 16th (Father's Day) we are again inviting you to make a \$10.00 donation towards the purchase of tools and seeds in honor of or in memory of someone. These will then be distributed by Church World Services. To do so, simply fill in the information below and make a check out to **Ledyard Congregational Church with CWS Tool Fund** on the memo line. Then mail both to Ellen Seeman, 8 Darrows Ridge Rd., East Lyme, CT 06333. You may also turn both in at church any Sunday or leave it in the Mission's mailbox outside the church offices. **Please print clearly!** Order forms are also available on the table in Fellowship Hall along with tool gift cards, which you can take to send an acknowledgment of your gift.

Your Name(s): _____ Phone #: _____

Name(s) to be remembered:

Names to be honored:

Numbers of Tool kits ordered: _____ Check enclosed for \$ _____ (made payable to **Ledyard Congregational Church Tools**)



Church Chatter *June 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

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

June 2025



Time Dated Material
Return Service Requested