



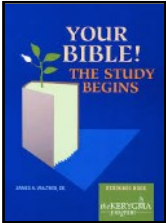
# Church Chatter June 2026

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

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Kerygma is an innovative Bible Study program designed specifically for adults. Your Adult Faith Formation team put this study forward for all adults in the community of LCC. Kerygma offers a number of educational opportunities. Your Bible! The Study Begins is a comprehensive introduction to the Bible. Seven sessions beginning **WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 16 FROM 7:00-8:30 p.m.** and continuing through **OCTOBER 28.**

This study will give you a working knowledge of how the Bible is put together, the various types of books in the Bible and how they fit together. Kerygma is lively, fun and informative. Please join us for this exciting study.

Stay tuned for registration information coming in the July/August Chatter.

Faithfully,  
Pastor Pat

### *A Message From Pastor Pat*



*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
- Carol Gauthier
- Joan Jirsa
- Gary Melanson
- Cindy M.
- Johanna Nolan
- Karen Rhoades
- Roy Warren
- Audrey Walker
- Marge Wilson

### From the Pastor's Desk

#### Office Hours

Wednesdays & Thursday  
9:00a.m. — 12:00 p.m.

Other times are available by appointment, please don't hesitate to ask!

Email: pliberty57@gmail.com

*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



#### Did you Know?

We have [hearing assistance devices](#) to assist the hearing-impaired during worship services. See the Tech Team before worship to try one!



### June Anniversaries

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

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

Troy Hedman	Kyle Murphy
Tye Frazer	Oliver Murphy

### 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 experience any problems with this link, please let us know by emailing the church office. [ledyard.cong.church@gmail.com](mailto:ledyard.cong.church@gmail.com)

See you online!

### Name Tags

In addition to your name, you now have options to add to your name tag:

- \* The UCC "God is still speaking" rainbow comma 
- \* Gender neutral pronouns (She/Her/Hers; He/Him/His; They/Them/Theirs)
- \* The role you have in church, such as Deacon, Trustee, Moderator, etc.

Don't wear your name tag because you don't like clipping it to your clothing? A lanyard is now available.

If you need a name tag or have misplaced yours and would like a new one, please contact Beth Smith. ([fraugurusan@yahoo.com](mailto:fraugurusan@yahoo.com)).

Thank you!

### Monday Morning Bible Study

Each week we meet on Monday morning from 10:30-11:30 a.m. in the Holdridge library and discuss the scripture for the upcoming Sunday in a relaxed and fun setting.



All are welcome!

### June Scripture Readings

#### Sunday June 7

##### Second Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 12:1-9 Psalm 33:1-12 • Hosea 5:15-6:6 Psalm 50:7-15 • Romans 4:13-25 • Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26

#### Sunday June 14

##### Third Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 18:1-15, (21:1-7) Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19 • Exodus 19:2-8a Psalm 100 • Romans 5:1-8 • Matthew 9:35-10:8, (9-23)

#### Sunday June 21

##### Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 21:8-21 Psalm 86:1-10, 16-17 • Jeremiah 20:7-13 Psalm 69:7-10, (11-15), 16-18 • Romans 6:1b-11 • Matthew 10:24-39

#### Sunday June 28

##### Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 22:1-14 Psalm 13 • Jeremiah 28:5-9 Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18 • Romans 6:12-23 • Matthew 10:40-42



### Your Deacons at Work

Saturday, May 9, the Deacons participated in a four-hour workshop facilitated by Rev. Pat. During our time together we read various Bible passages that describe the work of a deacon; discussed the gifts we each bring to the role, the qualities of a deacon, and all the responsibilities involved in supporting the worship each Sunday. In addition we shared some ideas for what is important to be included in the worship service, and we did some planning for the

future. The workshop was very informative and time well spent.

### Deacons' Fund

Communion Sundays provide an opportunity to contribute to the Deacons' Fund. This fund is set aside for members of the congregation who have a financial emergency. It is also used for people in the local community experiencing an emergency. Envelopes for this special collection can be found in the pews on the first Sunday of the month. Our next collection will take place on Sunday, June 7th.

A message from

# MISSIONS

Church World Services Blanket  
Sunday, May 10th



In May, we celebrated all the women in our lives with donations

towards the **Church World Service's Blanket Sunday**. \$730.00

May Red Cross Blood Drive  
Wednesday, May 13th Results



We held a very successful Red Cross Blood Drive on May 13<sup>th</sup> collecting 28 pints of blood. Thank you to all our donors, snack providers, and volunteers.

Our next drive is scheduled for **WEDNESDAY September 9th** from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Volunteers as well as snacks will be needed

Epic Day of Service was Held on  
Saturday, May 16th

The Epic Day of Service was held on Saturday, May 16th. Over 41,000 meals were packed and LCC, besides being a sponsoring organization, had a great showing of volunteers. The completed meals were then donated to United Way's Gemma Moran Food Center for distribution to pantries and support programs in all of New London County, including the Linda Davis Pantry in Ledyard.

Linda C. Davis Food Pantry  
Donations



For the month of **June**, the pantry is asking for **cereal and granola bars, peanut butter & crackers, cheese & crackers packages, and individual fruit cups**. When you grocery shop, please add a few items for the pantry to your cart. Then bring in your items on Sundays and place them under the table in the front of the sanctuary. You can also drop off items in the tote under the walkway to the church offices or in the box inside the Atrium.

On the first Sunday of each month, we will dedicate all the donations from the previous month as part of our morning offerings and then start collecting a new food item.

June Community Supper  
Thursday June 18th  
5:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall



Our June theme is **Start Your Grill**. Not to worry, there will be plenty of different foods to choose from! Come and see what our amazing cooks come up with.

This **FREE** supper is open to all! Come and sit for a while. Enjoy a hot meal, conversation, and community! There is a sign-up sheet for both food items and helpers on the table in Fellowship Hall. Please

consider adding your name wherever you can. Then come!

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



We are collecting the items needed for ten 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, June 28th.**

**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!

**Church World Services Tools Offering**

*Tools for today, food for tomorrow*



In June, we will celebrate all the men in our lives with donations to the **Church World Service's Tools**

**program.** We are inviting you to participate by donating \$10.00 towards to purchase of tools in honor or memory of someone. Through our donations, families receive seeds, hand tools, and training that help them grow food resilience and strengthen their livelihoods. When even small gifts are joined together with others they can make an impact on so many lives.

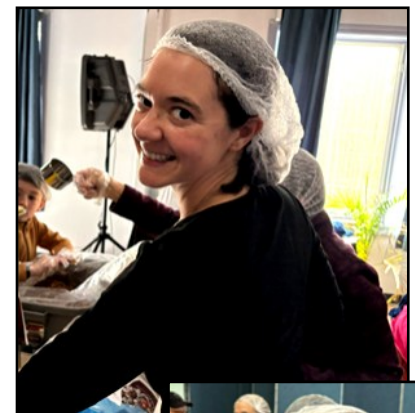
Donations for the Church World Services Tools drive will be received on Sunday, June 14<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>. The donations will be dedicated on the 21st (Father's Day). Order forms can

be found on page 19 and are available, along with gift cards on the table in Fellowship Hall.

A harvest of hope begins with you! Join other generous donors and help families reap a Harvest of Hope.

Your Mission's committee continues to be amazed and grateful for the ongoing support from our church family in all our outreach endeavors.

Thank you from Sue Burns, Kathy Fletcher, Dolly Hayes, Pastor Pat, Sara Holdridge, Anita Merando, Dee Potter, Meredith Schuft, Ellen Seeman, Kathy Smith, & Jill Thorne.



*Epic Day of Service.*

**JUNE**  
**PANCAKE BREAKFAST**  
 Come and Help Support LICEAF!  
 Ledyard Inter-Church Emergency Assistance Fund



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 support LICEAF's programs!

**7:30—10:00 a.m.**

**Saturday, June 6, 2026**

**Ledyard Congregational Church Fellowship Hall**

LICEAF is a partnership among seven Ledyard and Gales Ferry churches. Our mission is to help residents of Ledyard and Gales Ferry who have emergency financial or material needs.

For more information about our church, use this QR code!



**Caps & Lids Updates for Our Rainbow Bench**



Thank you to everyone who participated in our **Sorting Party** on Sunday, May 17<sup>th</sup>. We have passed our initial goal of collecting 200 lbs. of caps & lids and are now closing in on our goal of 250 lbs. for the 8ft bench, which has been ordered. The plan is to make the trip to deliver our caps and lids and pick up our bench on **OCTOBER 24<sup>th</sup>**!

Meanwhile, keep those caps and lids coming! 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



**Chair Yoga**

Looking for a Chair Yoga teachers who would be available to teach a class

once a week at the Ledyard Congregational Church in the fall. Please contact Anita Merando <armerando@gmail.com>.



**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)).



Did You Know that the Ledyard Lions Club collects used eyeglasses and hearing aids?

There is a box in Fellowship Hall where you can drop off your items. Thank you!



## June 28<sup>th</sup> 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 28<sup>th</sup>, we will continue our open and affirming

celebration with an **All Church Potluck!** Please join in a time of fellowship as we share a lunch.

During the month of June pride pins are available in the Narthex. Also, for anyone wanting an updated nametag symbolizing our open and affirming stance, please see Beth Smith or Anita Merando.

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

*806-464-9926.*

*Thank you!*

## Flowers for the Sanctuary

It has been a tradition that we have flowers provided for the altar each Sunday during the year. It is an opportunity for couples to celebrate anniversaries, a time to remember loved ones who have passed, recognize a special time, event or achievement, or simply to be grateful for the beauty in the world. There is a poster in the Fellowship Hall that you may choose a specific Sunday and sign up for, or you can simply contact me directly. The flowers you provide do not need to be anything fancy! The grocery stores sell inexpensive bouquets, you could bring fresh flowers or cuttings from your garden, or even a basket of apples in the fall would be lovely. There are *lots* of vases at church that are available for use. If you would like to provide flowers but need assistance in doing so, please don't hesitate to contact me. I will be happy to purchase flowers for you and bring them to the church or help in any way needed. And, if there is another person who would be interested in helping with flowers for the church during the year, that would be wonderful too! Thank you for your consideration



to add a touch of beauty to our Sunday services.

Ellen Seeman (860) 884-3414  
evseeman@gmail.com



## 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.

## Congratulation to the Class of 2026

Jeanne Allyn's grand twins, Jack and Sophie Allyn graduated in an inspiring service from High Point University in North Carolina on May 2nd.

Meredith & Chris' grandson, Danny Petruzella graduated from Kingwoods Oxford High School and will be attending the University of St. Andrews in Scotland in the fall majoring in Art History and Management.

Barbara Sorensen's grandson, Brian Lockwood graduated from the Community College of Rhode Island.

## 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?"*

On April 23rd, twenty four people gathered in Fellowship Hall for the **Intro To Racial Justice for Laity** workshop, sponsored by the Janet Barnett Legacy Fund, and presented by SNECC. It was an afternoon of deep reflection and learning, guided by facilitators who explored both church and US history as well as the sharing of personal histories and experiences. As we engaged with questions of race, we recognized that while skin color, hair texture, and other physical markers are genetic, there is no race gene. Race, when studied through the lenses of history and science, is a social construct. This construct allowed Christians to participate in chattel slavery by naming dark-skinned people, taken from the African continent and sold in the Americas, less than human. While that history seems far from our current reality, one can see that it contributed to the systems and social and economic structures that are embedded in our

society, and serve to separate us.

The facilitators encouraged us to ask questions of ourselves. What are some of the things we can do to let people of color know that they are not only welcome in our church community, but that they are welcome as valued members whose contributions are both wanted and needed? How do we reach into the community to engage with the diversity that does exist in Ledyard and beyond?

While we didn't fully answer these (and many other) questions, we were left with a few ideas to consider:

- Can we reach beyond our go-to favorites to support minority owned businesses? If we did this intentionally, we may form genuine bonds with people who we might not otherwise know, proactively demonstrating a racial justice stance, and perhaps making new friends along the way.
- Can we learn more about the enslaved persons who are a part of New England, Ledyard, and our own church history? Might their stories become as important as the stories of our founders?

When the SJT reflects on what we have learned through the **Constructive Dialog and Racial Justice** workshops, we see the

opportunities to exercise these skills to proactively support racial justice, and our open and affirming commitment. We see these as important steps in our church mission, *"We are followers of Jesus, united in Spirit and inspired by God's grace to bring justice and love to all," and Micha's in command "...to do justice."*

We invite you to join us as we consider next steps while exploring who God is calling us to become.

### Resources to learn more about minority owned businesses:

- \* <https://ctvisit.com/minority-owned-businesses>
- \* <https://chamberect.com/2022/01/28/shop-local-shop-black-owned-business/#>
- \* <https://www.whchamber.com/minority-business-network/>
- \* <https://ctmainstreet.org/what-we-do/technical-assistance/diversity-on-main-program/>
- \* <https://www.ctlibrarians.org/page/mwvs>
- \* <https://www.troupe429.com/shopgay>
- \* <https://sectwomensnetwork.org/directory>



**LCC Social Justice Team’s Next Meeting, Thursday June 18th 4:00-5:00 p.m.**

The LCC Social Justice Team meets the 3rd Thursday of every month in the Holdridge Library.

- 4:00—5:00 p.m.—SJT monthly meeting.
- 5:00—5:30 p.m.— Pop-in Prayer in the Lester Room (watch the eblast for more information) and plan to stay for the Community Super at 5:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall!

All are welcome to join us



**Key-Code and/or FOB Holders**

If you have a key-code and/or FOB, you are expected to let yourself into the building. During office hours, use the ring camera just to let Bridney know you are here, then let yourself in.

**All Visitors**

Please ring the door chime and our admin will respond as quickly as possible. Please be patient. Thank you



Press Here to summon Bridney



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

**Open and Affirming Statement and Non-Discrimination Declaration**

**Open and Affirming Statement**

*“There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.” [Galatians 3:28]*

As we are one in Christ, we are called to accept and respect one another. We commit ourselves to work diligently to end all oppression and discrimination which afflicts God’s people in our society. We seek to explore new ways of affirming our faith in community according to the wisdom of the Gospel. We work, as individuals and as a community, to become more Christ-like in our love for one another.

Love is a unifying and strengthening force within the Christian faith, and we, the members of the Ledyard Congregational Church, hereby declare ourselves an Open and Affirming Church and welcome into full participation members and staff of every sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression.

Jesus teaches us to welcome all God’s children. As we grow together

in faith and love, we will strive to celebrate the diversity in which God has created us. As followers of Christ, we seek by this affirmation to be faithful to his commandment, *“love one another as I have loved you.” [John 15:1]*

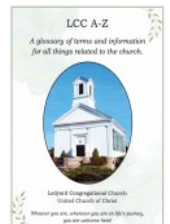
**Non-Discrimination Declaration**

We welcome into full participation all who seek to follow Jesus, including persons of every age, gender, race, national origin, faith background, marital status and family structure, mental and physical ability, economic and social status, and educational background, to share in the life, leadership, ministry, fellowship, worship, sacraments, responsibilities, blessings and joys of our church family.

*Adopted at the Ledyard Congregational Church’s Semi-Annual meeting August 24, 2025.*

**LCC A-Z**

It’s time for the LCC A-Z to be updated. Please give Beth Smith any additions/deletions/edits by the end of June.



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

## From the Historian's Desk



### Our Church Ancestors

For those who missed the “Getting to Know our Church Ancestors” Potluck at the end of April, it was fun and enlightening. Just as Lee Moore at the Bill Dinner last fall brought to life the local soldiers and families involved in the Battle of Groton Heights during the Revolution, this group of presentations made those who established our separate church and society more “real.”

Because we do not have our church records from those early years, we do not have any written covenant or statement of faith – no documentation of their motives or beliefs except those included in the petitions to the General Assembly, and what we know of Congregationalism at the time. The early Ecclesiastical Society minutes record the business finalized, but not the discussions. However, by getting to know some personal stories we can begin to understand a bit about the lives and actions of those who came before us. The importance of participating in worship together was the stated goal, and it motivated their break

from the church to the south.

Eight researchers used probate records, vital records, online databases, published local and family histories, society records, and other documents to learn what we could about the lives. Seven presenters shared the occupations, family relationships, and circumstances of life of nine “ancestors” through the years, from Capt. John Morgan, apparent leader of the separation movement, to William Smith, a German immigrant and member of our church who served in the Civil War, returning home ill only to die soon after from his illness.

Along the way we met:

**Mary Ames Stoddard**, from the Gales Ferry area, who with her husband Ralph hosted some of the early services

**Capt. John Morgan**, always in the lead, who apparently carried the petition to Hartford, and hosted meetings and church services

**Christopher Avery**, another well-to-do individual often in leadership roles

**Richard Williams (and wife Sarah)**, farmer, who was often on the committees for work like approaching potential ministers, and locating the center of the society

**Mary Giddings Johnson**, wife of Rev. Jacob Johnson, who went with him and the Susquehanna Settlers

to Pennsylvania in 1772

**Sally Raymond Smith**, wealthy widow who took an active role in providing the “new” meetinghouse in 1843, and mother of Orlando Smith, Westerly quarry-owner  
**Anna Smith Gallup Williams**, one of five members who re-dedicated the church in 1810 under Rev. Timothy Tuttle, and mother to Isaac Gallup, Jr.

**Isaac Gallup, Jr.** local builder and chair of the building committee for the 1843 meetinghouse

**William Smith**, immigrant farmhand with a local family, with a family of his own, Civil War soldier, Connecticut 26<sup>th</sup> Regiment

Several of the early members, and at least one of our pastors, were shown to have “owned” enslaved persons, which leads to a proposed project by the Social Justice Team, the Historian, and perhaps others, to learn more about this facet of our history. Let us know if you would like to get involved.

Carol Ganz, LCC Church Historian - coowagnz@aol.com



### Social Justice Project

Your social justice team has initiated an exercise that looks at social justice issues in our world and then what Scripture calls us to do to respond to those issues. This exercise requires you, the congregation, to participate. On the wall in fellowship hall is a mural the team created that illustrates areas of injustice and evil. On the table next to the mural are approximately 80 verses from the bible that may speak to what you see on the mural. Here's where you come in. We ask that you look through the verses and pick one or more that you think are relevant and speaks to the issues you see on the mural. Take the verse and paste it (glue sticks provided) onto the mural where you think it best fits.

Hope you all will participate as we explore the connections between the social justice issues and our response to those issues in light of biblical teachings.

## JUNE COMMUNITY SUPPER

# Start Your Grill

THURSDAY, JUNE 18, 2025

**Ledyard Congregational Church**

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**Come and see what our amazing cooks come up with. There will be lots of great food to choose from!**

**Supper will be served at 5:30pm.**  
**This is FREE with a donate-what-and-if you can supper and is open to all!**

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

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

*For more information about our church, use this QR code!*





Announcement!

The writing group is back!  
 We meet on Thursday,  
 from 1:00-2:30 P.M.  
 in the Holdridge Library.  
 All are welcome!

Sponsored by the LCC Women's Fellowship.

# Women's FELLOWSHIP

## Tuesday May 12th Meeting

Our Tuesday May 12th meeting was our year-end meeting and we gather earlier for a light supper of salads and desserts! There were several program suggestions for next year including Ellen Seeman offering to do a **Summer Gathering** similar to the one we typically do in December, minus the snow! It is planned for Tuesday, June 23<sup>rd</sup> at 6:00 p.m. See the poster on page 15 for more information!

## Grandma's Attic Saturday, June 20th



This is an event you won't want to miss. You never know what hidden treasures you'll find from household items, décor, and much more at great prices!

- 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, Monday through Thursday, 8:30 a.m.—1:30 p.m. 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. Something you would purchase.

For questions please contact **Dolly Hayes at (860) 514-9303 or by email at darling.hayes@comcast.net**

## Sumer Picnic

We are planning to hold another Sunday worship service and picnic at Bluff Point State Park sometime in August. Watch for more detail in the July/August issue of the Chatter along with other exciting programs we will be sponsoring next fall!

Women's Fellowship is open to anyone who would like to join us for any of our activities. You do not need to be a member or even a regular attendee of LCC. Feel free to bring a friend!

## All are Welcome!



Church Picnic at Bluff Point.  
Sunday, July 20, 2026.



## Friends of Silver Lake

Believe Silver Lake is important? Was your life transformed there? Is outdoor ministry essential in a time when Earth is in trouble?

**Friends of Silver Lake, Inc.** is a new nonprofit formed to unite the dispersed community that values Silver Lake and to work toward a vision of future ministry in line with its historic mission. Created just after the announcement of Silver Lake's closing in November, FOSL is moving with strength to continue this sacred legacy's ministry. It is a membership organization and we encourage you to join in this future-oriented ministry. Whether you were ever a camper or simply loved retreats, served as a volunteer or just know others whose lives were transformed there, we hope you'll go to <https://www.friendsofsilverlake.com> and click on "Stay connected" to learn more and join this important movement of the Holy Spirit!

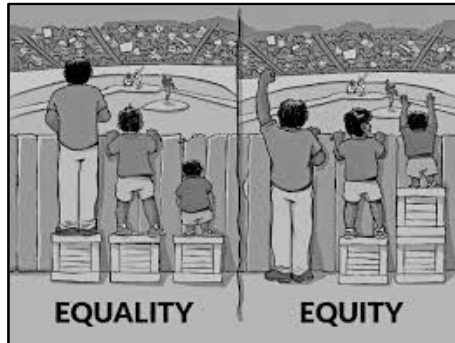
*If we look at the things that were most important to Jesus, it gives us insight into what our discipleship should look like.*

### A Message From Your Music Ministry

The May pancake breakfast netted the Music Ministry over \$380.00 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 speak to Kimberly Perteet, Rob Ayer, or just sign-up on the poster in Fellowship Hall. We should be able to provide you with any type of support you'd like. -- Kimberly and Rob.

## An Introduction to Racial Justice for Laity

Presented by the SNEUCC, sponsored by Janet Barnett Legacy Fund



What would happen if we took down the fence?

This workshop allowed people with different perspectives on race to engage in constructive conversation. We came to realize that throughout history, our laws have been influenced and implemented by white culture. Most of the beliefs we have about race are the result of systemic structures that have favored white people, and yet science shows there is no genetic chromosome for race. God makes no distinction. Anti-racism asks us to be proactive in small steps in our daily lives, for example:

- Do we know any minority-owned businesses, and how do we support them?
- How can we support affordable housing initiatives?
- What assumptions do we make about others?

- What assumptions do we make about poverty?
- How do we respond when we hear a racist comment?
- There are many more questions to be asked.

This workshop was attended by 25 people (half of our usual Sunday attendance). We are curious and engaged. Inspired by Janet's inclusive welcome, we invite you to join us as we explore how we can use what we learned to further our church's mission: "We are followers of Jesus, united in spirit and inspired by God's grace to bring justice and love to all."

### Keeping You Informed

This Chatter newsletter is filled with articles to help keep you up to date on all that's happening at LCC.



Additionally, the church office sends out a weekly email blast which contains information about our Sunday worship service and highlights of upcoming events. We encourage you to read. If you do not already receive the weekly email blast, please contact the church office via email at: [ledyard.cong.church@gmail.com](mailto:ledyard.cong.church@gmail.com) and you will be added to the list. Note, you can unsubscribe at any time.

### Lights Out and Doors Shut!



Don't forget to **turn out all lights** and **close all interior doors** when the building is not in use. This is necessary for managing energy costs and fire safety purposes.

**THANK YOU!**

## Faith Formation and Sunday School



### Goat Plop Bingo Results



Thank you to everyone who took part in our Sunday School students' fundraiser for Heifer International by purchasing squares for our Goat Plop Bingo.

On Sunday, April 26th many of us gathered outside for a long wait to see which square the goat would choose.

In the end, Anita Merando was the winner of a dozen eggs. We raised \$500.00 which will go towards buying an animal through Heifer International for a family in need.

Thank you everyone who participated in this fun and fundraising event.

### Looking Ahead FF Sunday School June 7th Children's Sunday Plus



This intergenerational service celebrates the reflections of the children in Sunday School and the insights from the various Adult Faith

Formation studies.

### Survey and Feedback Opportunity



Please check your email for opportunities to offer feedback and share your thoughts about this past year's Sunday School Programs, and your hopes for the future.

### NOW HIRING

#### Director of Sunday School Faith Formation

The Board of Faith Formation is putting together a job description for the position of **Director of Sunday School Faith Formation**. The need for this position celebrates the amazing work of our Sunday School teachers and parent volunteers, and the growth of family attendance at church. Feel free to reach out to Anita Merando, [armerando@gmail.com](mailto:armerando@gmail.com), to share your hopes for this exciting position.

### News from the Nursery

With the wonderful addition of new families, the crib room is a busy place. The new pagers make it easy for us to stay in communication with parents who are in the Sanctuary. Would you like to volunteer to help Kristie in the crib room? Reach out to Anita, [armerando@gmail.com](mailto:armerando@gmail.com)

### Adult Faith Formation

In addition to in-person **Bible Study** and **Book Group**, we will set up a zoom link for those who can't

attend in person. The link will be available in the weekly eblast.



Bible Study is Monday mornings at 10:30-11:30 a.m., Book Group is Wednesday evenings at 7:00-8:00 p.m.

Do you have an idea for an adult faith formation study? We would love to hear from you. Reach out to Anita, [armerando@gmail.com](mailto:armerando@gmail.com), or attend our monthly meeting.

### Small Groups

Small groups continue to meet at individual homes. If you are not connected with a small group, but wish to join, speak with Pastor Pat.

### Sunday School Teacher Reflections

Teaching this year has brought me back to this church and has reminded me how much I love the UCC beliefs. I love emphasizing to the kids that their relationships with God are their own and that the many symbols we learn in Faith Formation have room for individual interpretation. Our church is a wonderful way to be uniquely celebrated, together!

-Lisa Ann

My highlights of Sunday School this year have been learning about different religions, raising money for Heifer, and most importantly, getting to know more people.

-Vicki

With the help of God. This year each child had their own egg to find. The children that had trouble finding their egg were helped by the other children. Then when they found their egg, it was empty. Are we sad or happy? The tomb was empty on Easter morning. Are we sad or happy? Each child was given an Easter bag. The leftover bags were given to Everett, who with his sister's help found a family to share them with. Easter was filled with many lessons.

-Dolly

Looking back at this Sunday School year, our class was like a vibrant little garden. The children learned that our differences make us special, and that every unique bloom strengthens our community. We learned God's word, explored our faith, and planted seeds of kindness. I appreciate the parents and other caring adults that took on the role of "garden helpers" in the classroom. I hope we can continue to grow together next season!

-Leslie

**Summer Gathering**

*Tuesday, June 23, 2026 ~ 6:00 p.m.*  
*at the home of Ellen & Bill Seeman*  
*8 Darrows Ridge Road*  
*East Lyme*

*Women's Fellowship invites all adult members and friends of the Ledyard Congregational Church to a **Summer Gathering** to meet and celebrate Summer! Please bring an appetizer for all to enjoy throughout the evening.*

*Beverages will be provided.*

***RSVP by Sunday, June 21st***  
*860-884-3414, [evseeman@gmail.com](mailto:evseeman@gmail.com)*  
*or [use this link!](#)*



**Faith Formation Meetings**

We meet the second Wednesday of each month. All are welcome to join us. Our next meeting is June 10th. Adult FF meets at 11:00 a.m. and Sunday School FF at 12:00 p.m.

 Our next **wheelchair accessible Sunday worship services** will be on **August 2nd and November 1st** when we will worship in Fellowship Hall. Enter through the double doors into the Hall. (Bill Library side.)



## Finding Calm Together: Our Spring Meditation Workshop

This spring, a group of us from church gathered for a wonderful six-class meditation workshop led by Bonnie Denton, which provided a calm sanctuary in today's busy and overstimulating world.

Meeting on Mondays from 12:30 to 2:00 PM, each session featured a warm welcome, a structured and informative presentation on that week's meditation style, guided practice, and time for discussion and reflection.

The workshop offered something for everyone, as Bonnie skillfully guided us through mindfulness techniques designed to navigate daily stress and cultivate compassion for ourselves and others. A key focus included developing both internal and external awareness. This meant tuning in to our inner landscape of thoughts, feelings, and physical sensations, while also opening up to the external sounds and environment around us with increased perspective rather than judgment. We learned to notice these experiences instead of being overrun by the "monkey mind"—a concept in Buddhist philosophy

describing a restless, unsettled, or easily distracted state of mind.

Together, we tried guided meditations, quiet listening, breathing exercises, grounding, and movement practices. We explored key teachings related to Metta (loving-kindness), equanimity, and compassion to increase empathy while also maintaining healthy boundaries so we can care for those around us without feeling overwhelmed.

Bonnie was responsive to our needs, offering accommodations for practice as well as providing additional materials and resources for use at home. We are all so grateful for her dedication, wisdom, and warm leadership. Although this meditation workshop has ended, we are excited to keep sharing these tools within our church family and beyond, as the skills and experiences have tremendous value.

*Reflections from Participants:*  
During a recent faith formation meeting, a few of us shared how we are using these practices in real life:


- Barbara: "I use block breathing to help my body relax and fall asleep at night."
- Beth: "I support my sleep routine by listening to guided meditations by Tara Brach."
- Pastor Pat noted that despite asthma making slow breathing physically tough, she found the

practices helpful and accessible.

- Anita: "I stay calm during stressful conversations by focusing on grounding techniques—like paying attention to my feet on the floor, my butt in the chair, and remembering to breathe."
- Leslie: "I take a deep breath and visualize surfing the waves to maintain my composure when my child resists the morning school routine. Some mornings, it takes all my effort to stay balanced on that board!"

*Interested in Learning More?*

If you have questions or want to learn more about meditation, please reach out to Bonnie. Let us know if you would love to attend another workshop in the future or want to check out some of our supplementary resources and materials.



# ReStore

Shop · Donate · Volunteer

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

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

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



**Below is the List of Donations Received for Blankets!**

**Given By ..... In Memory Of:**

Meredith & Chris Schuft .....	Alison Slade, Betty Schuft, Sue Morrison, and Cara Petruzella
Kathy Fletcher .....	Dorothy Denning, Joanne Pirnie, Meredith McClean
Beth Smith.....	Jane Smith
Ellen Seeman .....	Margaret Vogel
Carrie & Ken Burger.....	Carol Rethwill, Mary Burger
Kathleen Smith .....	Gertrude Gusler
Dee & Richard Potter .....	Mildred Stanton, Cherilla Stanton, Kathren Potter, Evelyn Golding
Neal & Carol Ganz .....	Mothers & Grandmothers

**Given By: ..... In Honor Of:**

Chris & Meredith Schuft .....	Stacey Petruzella, Jammie Murphy, Kathy White, Dana Aker
Kathy Fletcher .....	Kelly Tabor, and Lisa Rogers
Ellen Seeman .....	Sara Bressler, Stephanie Seeman
Barbara Sorensen .....	All Women
Dee & Richard Potter.....	Women of LCC
Fletchers & Potters .....	Pat Liberty

Additional donations were received from Vernon Kellogg, Beth Ayer, and Carol Ganz for a total of **\$730.00!**

**From Your Stewardship Committee**

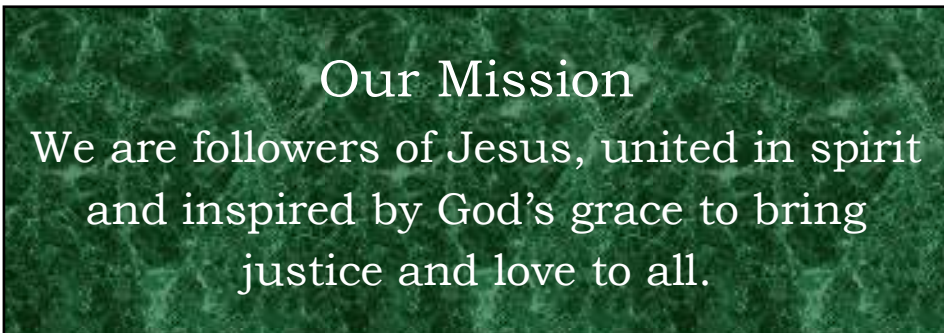


Please remember, our Church's expenses don't take a vacation.

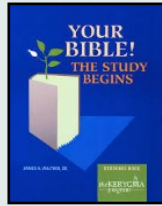
When you are unable to attend Sunday worship you still have a few options to pay your pledge:

- You can make your pledge online. There is a QR code in the weekly Thursday email blast that will get you to our online giving page. **(You don't have to be a Breeze user)**. If you are a Breeze user, you can go to the online giving page through a menu option in the app.
- Please feel free to stop by anytime that the church office is open and leave your pledge envelope in the Treasurer's mailbox outside the offices.
- If you prefer, you can also mail your pledge to the church at Ledyard Congregational Church, 722 Colonel Ledyard Highway, Ledyard, CT 06339.
- If you don't pledge but are accustomed to placing a donation in the collection plate, you can make that donation using the same methods described above.

Thank you in advance for keeping "fulfill my pledge" on your to-do list



**WEDNESDAY  
NIGHT  
BOOK STUDY  
GROUP**



7:00-8:30 p.m.  
in the Holdridge Library

The **Wednesday Night Book Group** is now taking a break for the summer and will resume meeting on Wednesday, September 16th. We will begin the **Kerygma** program which is an innovative Bible Study program designed specifically for adults.

For more information on this program, please see Pastor Pat's message on page one and watch for more updates in the July/ August issue of the Chatter.

Hope to see you there!

**The Memorial Day Parade and Ceremony Was Canceled due to the Poor Weather Conditions.**

**The Ledyard Lions are Planning for an "America 250" Parade on Saturday,**



**LCC Church  
Calendar**

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

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

Not on Breeze yet? Contact Chris via email: [chrisschuft@gmavt.net](mailto:chrisschuft@gmavt.net) or via phone: 802-488-0802 and he will get you up and running.

**June 27th with a Rain Date of Sunday, June 28th)**

Join us in walking in the parade and help us celebrate our Church's 300th anniversary! Watch for more details in upcoming weekly e-blasts, including other activities being planned for around town that day!

Hope to see you there!



**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 6th**

All donations will go to the Ledyard Inter-Church Emergency Fund, Inc. (LICEAF)

**Saturday, July 4th**

**There will be NO Pancake Breakfast in July due to the holiday.**

**Saturday, August 1st**

All donations will go to the Tri Town Trail Association.

**Saturday, September 5th**

All donations will go to Tunnel to Towers.

Thank you for your continuing support for all the organizations!

**ALL ARE WELCOME. JOINS US!**

### 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.



### Looking for Greeters for Sunday Morning Worship Service

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

If you are interested being one of our happy and friendly greeters on Sundays, please speak with Beth Ayer after church or contact her via email:  
[girlsmomX3@comcast.net](mailto:girlsmomX3@comcast.net) or by phone: [\(860\) 608-5951](tel:8606085951).



**JULY/AUGUST** Chatter  
Deadline is **MONDAY, JUNE 15th.**

Please email your article to me by the 15th at:  
[chrisandmeri@gmavt.net](mailto:chrisandmeri@gmavt.net).

As a reminder, putting the Chatter together is like trying to put a puzzle together without knowing how many pieces or what the size of those pieces will be until I get everyone's submissions.

The Chatter has increased from 12 to 20 pages, which has added significant time to the production time!

Thank You, Meredith Schuft

**Church World Services (CWS) Tools Program Sunday — 2026**



In June, we will celebrate all the men in our lives with donations to the **Church World Service's Tools program**. We are inviting you to participate by donating \$10.00 towards to purchase of tools in honor or memory of someone. Your donations provide essential tools to plant, nurture and grow a thriving garden. On Sunday June 21st (Father's Day) we will dedicate all our donations. Simply fill in the information below and make a check out to **Ledyard Congregational Church with CWS Tools Program** on the memo line. Then mail both to Ellen Seeman, 8 Darrows Ridge Rd., East Lyme, CT 06333. Or turn both in at church any Sunday or leave it in the Clerk's mailbox outside the church offices. **Please print clearly!** Order forms are also available on the table in Fellowship Hall along with tools gift cards, which you can take to send an acknowledgment of your gift.

Your Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) to be remembered:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) to be honored:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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

HARVEST OF  
*Hope*



*Church  
Chatter  
June 2026*

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

**Church Office Hours**

**Monday through Thursday**

**8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.**

Phone: 860-464-9926

Email:

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

Website:

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

Ledyard Congregational Church  
722 Colonel Ledyard Highway  
Ledyard, CT 06339

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

Along with Sunday School, and  
Nursery/Childcare



*June  
2026*



Time Dated Material  
Return Service Requested