

LCC A-Z

*A glossary of terms and information
for all things related to the church.*



Ledyard Congregational Church
United Church of Christ

*Whoever you are, wherever you are on life's journey,
you are welcome here!*

	Topic	Description
A	Advent	The season of Advent begins four Sundays before Christmas and typically involves the Hanging of the Greens. (See below under H.)
	Annual Congregational Meeting	Usually held in January following the morning worship service. (The date of our annual meeting fluctuates from year-to-year and the date is typically decided on at our semi-annual meeting.) The purpose of the annual meeting is to approve the budget and discuss church issues. All are welcome and encouraged to attend.
B	Baptism	If you would like to be baptized or have your children baptized please contact the minister or the church office.
	Bell Choir	The Bell Choir periodically plays during a church service. Practices usually take place once a week. New ringers are always welcome.
	Bible/Book Studies	Bible or book studies often take place during the seasons of Advent and Lent.
	Bibles	Currently we are using the New Revised Standard Version (NRSV). The children's Bible is The Jesus Storybook Bible. If you need a Bible please contact the minister or the church office.
	Breakfast on the Beach	Breakfast at Bluff Point Beach is usually held once a year in the spring followed by a shortened church service.
	Breeze	Breeze is the church app that runs on your phone, tablet, and/or home computer. It gives you, among other things, an online church directory, access to the church calendar, and a link to make online donations.
	Carriage House	The Carriage House is the long building in the parking lot. It is currently used for storing Gramma's Attic items.
	Chapel in the Woods	LCC's Chapel in the Woods is located on Col Ledyard Highway opposite the entrance to Church Hill Road. When a service is taking place a flag will be displayed to mark the path. The outdoor worship area was built by the LCC Youth Group together with a Youth Group from Mexico. Usually there's an Easter sunrise service held at the Chapel.
	Chatter	The Chatter is the monthly newsletter that includes information about upcoming church events, the month's Scripture readings, news of the congregation, and more. Hard copies are available throughout the church in the Narthex, Social Hall, Outside the Church Office and Fellowship Hall. The current Chatter, as well as the past two months can be found on the church website.
	Choir	The choir consists of a group of enthusiastic singers who generally practice once a week in preparation for singing during the Sunday service. New choir members are welcome. Commitment is flexible.
	Christmas Season	Advent - The season of Advent begins four Sundays before Christmas and typically involves the Hanging of the Greens. Hanging of the Greens - The sanctuary and fellowship hall are decorated with green wreathes, Christmas trees, and garland for the Christmas season. Decorating usually takes place following the morning worship service on the first Sunday in Advent. The greens are taken down after Epiphany. Volunteers to help are welcome. Christmas Eve Services: * 5:00 pm service geared towards children * 7:00 pm service is our traditional carols and candlelight * 9:00 pm service for those who are struggling Epiphany - the Sunday closest to January 6.
	Church Calendar	The church calendar can be found on the church website, ledyardcongregational.org as well as on Breeze.

C	Church Council	<p>The members of the Church elect annually members of the Church Council and Boards. The Church Council is made up of church officers and Chairs or representatives of the Boards from the designated areas of ministry within the congregation. The areas of ministry are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Faith Formation * Hospitality * Missions * Stewardship * Trustees * Worship & Music <p>The function of the Church Council is to oversee and coordinate all activities within the church. The Church Council is responsible for maintaining good communication among the Congregation, Boards and Committees.</p>
	Church Contact Information: - Mailing Address - Telephone Number - e-mail	<p>Ledyard Congregational Church 722 Colonel Ledyard Hwy Ledyard, CT 06339</p> <p>860-464-9926</p> <p>ledyard.cong.church@gmail.com</p>
	Church World Services: Blanket Sunday	Blanket Sunday is typically on Mother's Day. Contributions are given to Church World Services to support blankets being sent to places in the world where they are needed.
	Church World Services: Tool Sunday	Tool Sunday is typically on Father's Day. Contributions are given to Church World Services to support sending tools to where they are needed around the world.
	Coffee Hour	Coffee Hour is a time of fellowship for all ages following the church service in Fellowship Hall. All are welcome.
	Communion	Communion is served the first Sunday of each month.
	Communion Sunday Offering	Funds collected during this service are used to purchase gift cards for gas, food, or donating to the Ledyard Food Pantry to be used for people in emergency situations.
	Community Prayer Box	<p>Part of the Prayer Chain Ministry, is our outreach to the community. Everyone is welcome to leave your prayer request anytime in the box located in the driveway entrance across from Valentino's restaurant.</p> <p>Prayers may include prayers of celebration, of concern & healing and/or prayers of comfort. Prayer requests are collected weekly and lifted up in prayer at our Sunday morning worship service and also included in our prayer chain ministry.</p>
	Community Suppers	Community Suppers are held the third Thursday of the month in Fellowship Hall. Supper is served at 5:30 pm. It is free and is open to all. Enter through the double doors into Fellowship Hall (Bill Library side).
	Confirmation	A class for teenagers that can lead to becoming a member of the church. For more information please speak to or contact the pastor.
D	Deacons	The Deacons are a committee who assist the pastor in Sunday worship.

E	Easter Season	<p>Services include:</p> <p>Ash Wednesday - marks the start of the Lenten season which is 40 days and six Sundays before Easter. There is an evening service with ashes offered.</p> <p>Palm Sunday - The Sunday before Easter. Palms are available for all.</p> <p>Maundy Thursday - There is an evening service with communion.</p> <p>Easter Sunday: * 7:00. Sunrise Service in the Outdoor Chapel on Rte. 117 opposite Church Hill Road. Park on Church Hill Road and watch for the flag marking the path. Breakfast to follow in the church Fellowship Hall.</p> <p>* 9:30 am Easter celebration worship. An Easter Egg Hunt follows the service.</p>
	E-Blast	The weekly e-mail sent out with information about the upcoming Sunday service and any announcements for the week. Items for the e-blast can be submitted to Alicia in the Church office by Wednesday.
	Ecclesiastical Society	Historically the Ledyard Ecclesiastical Society is the owner and care taker of the Bill Waystation and General Store, the Ledyard Congregational Church parsonage, and the old Town Hall building (former Food Pantry). The parsonage was the childhood home of Henry Bill who gifted the house, the Waystation, and 80 acres of land to the Ecclesiastical Society in the 1870's.
F	Facebook	The Sunday service and other activities are posted on Facebook: <i>Ledyard Congregational Church</i> .
	Faith Formation	Sunday school is offered to any child who would like to attend. Following <i>A Time for All Ages</i> , children go downstairs with the teachers for Sunday school.
	Flowers	If you would like to adorn the sanctuary with flowers for our Sunday worship service, there is a sign-up sheet on the table in Fellowship Hall. Please do not bring lilies as the minister is allergic to them.
G	Grandma's Attic	Grandma's Attic is a tag sale/flea market. This annual fund raising event has been held in the Spring and most recently was held July.
	Greeters	Each Sunday, two people greet congregants as they come into church. The greeters also take up the offering.
H	History	LCC has a long history starting in 1725. A 300th anniversary celebration is being planned for 2025-2026.
I	Interim Pastor	Our interim pastor is Rev Patricia Liberty.
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K	Kitchen	The kitchen is available for rent. Contact the church office.
L	Lenten season	The Lenten season begins 40 days before Easter.
M	Memorial Garden	Our Memorial Garden is located outside the church offices. Ashes can be interred there. Contact the church office.
	Missions	Missions is a board of the church open to interested people. Members, like those of other boards, are voted on at the annual meeting. This board meets as needed. Missions engages church members and friends in several programs throughout the year to collect items and funds which are then distributed locally and globally to deserving organizations.

	Moderator	The moderator is the chair of the church council and conducts the annual, semi-annual church meetings, as well as the church council meetings. The Moderator is elected by the church at the annual meeting.
N	Name Tags	If you are in need of a name tag, please add your name to the Name Tag list found on the table in the church Narthex or contact Sara Holdridge.
O	Online Giving	Secure online gifts to the church may be made on Breeze.
P	Pancake Breakfast	Pancake Breakfasts are held the first Saturday of each month in Fellowship Hall from 7:30-10:00. Enjoy a delicious breakfast of fresh hot coffee/tea, orange juice, pancakes, sausage, scrambled eggs, and chipped beef. Come and sit for a while. Enjoy conversation and fellowship. Each month, all profits from the free-will donations go to support the hosting organization. (Past donations have supported such events and organizations as Gales Ferry/Ledyard CROP Walk, LHS Music Department, the Girl Scouts, First Responders, and Ukraine.)
	Parsonage	The parsonage is the mustard colored house located on the corner of Church Hill Road and Spicer Hill Road. This historical residence is owned by the Ecclesiastical Society, and is maintained for the use by the pastor of the church.
	Pentecost	Pentecost is celebrated on the seventh Sunday or 50 days after Easter. It commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles and other followers of Jesus while they were in Jerusalem celebrating the Feast of Weeks, as described in the Acts of the Apostles. At the first Pentecost over 3,000 people were baptized, creating the first church. This is why Pentecost is known as the birthday of the Christian church. LCC encourages everyone to wear red this day to signify the work and fire of the Holy Spirit.
	Prayer Chain Ministry	Prayer Chain Ministry invites you to submit your requests for prayers. There are several ways to do so. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * email your request to: prayerslcc@gmail.com, * call the church office at 860-464-9926, or * drop your request in our Community Prayer Box. (Located in the driveway entrance across from Valentino's restaurant anytime.) <p>The deadline for prayer requests is each Thursday at noon. All prayer requests are gathered weekly and lifted up in prayer at our Sunday morning service during our time of <i>Concerns and Celebrations</i>. They are also included in the weekly email sent to the members of the Prayer Chain Ministry group each Friday. This is the group of people who are committed to take time each week to lift up the prayer requests. Prayers may include prayers of celebration, of concern & healing and/or prayers of comfort.</p>
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	Rally Day	Rally Day is the early fall kickoff to the church year and is held in September.
	Receptions	Receptions following funerals and memorial services are provided by Women's Fellowship.
	Red Sleigh Bazaar	The Red Sleigh Bazaar is a longstanding tradition and the Women's Fellowship's biggest fundraiser. Profits are donated back to the church's operating budget, to the United Church of Christ's Our Church's Wider Missions , donations to local non-profit organizations, and for Women's Fellowship's programs expenses. This annual event is held the Saturday before Thanksgiving from 9:30-2:00. There are many ways to get involved to support the bazaar (before, during and after) including: Basket Raffle, Bake Sale, Jewelry Table, Heart Ornaments, Luncheon, Cookie Walk, Handcrats/Ornaments, Publicity, Set-Up and Clean-Up.

R	Rooms of the Church	<p>Church Foyer - The area just inside the entrance from the east parking lot (Bill Library side.)</p> <p>Crib Room - Has been the nursery for young children during the church service.</p> <p>Cy Anderson Fellowship Hall - Large gathering space for many church and community functions. It's available for rent.</p> <p>Jane Bliven Kitchen - Located in Fellowship Hall.</p> <p>Lester Room - A Sunday School room as well as a place for meetings.</p> <p>Holdridge Library - Located by the church offices. Sometimes used for small meetings.</p> <p>Dot Clark Music Room - Located on the second floor, accessible from the stairway in the church foyer.</p> <p>Narthex - The gathering area inside the main doors before the sanctuary. - The place of worship.</p> <p>Social Hall - Social Hall is accessible from the doorway in the west parking lot (opposite Valentino's) and from the stairway in sanctuary.</p>
S	Sermons/Worship Service recordings	Recordings of the service can be found on the church's Facebook page. The videos can be saved to your own folder by clicking on the 3 horizontal dots in the upper right hand corner of the video and clicking "Save video".
	Stewardship	The fall stewardship annual campaign is held to give people the opportunity to commit to financially supporting the church.
	Strawberry Shortcake Supper	The Strawberry Shortcake Supper is our 95-year-old tradition annual fundraising event. It is held in June as soon as the locally-grown strawberries are ripe. This dinner is popular with people all around Ledyard. The Women's Fellowship organizes this event. The dinner consists of baked ham, homemade New England baked beans, cole slaw and the dessert is strawberry shortcake, of course. We pick the strawberries, bake the shortcakes and whip the cream, so it's no wonder everyone loves this event. More than 300 pounds of strawberries are picked, and the funds raised are used by Women's Fellowship as described under the Red Sleigh Bazaar. There are many ways to get involved.
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	United Church of Christ	The United Church of Christ (UCC) is a distinct and diverse community of Christians that come together as one church to join faith and action. With over 5,000 churches and nearly one million members across the U.S., the UCC serves God in the co-creation of a just and sustainable world. The UCC is a church of firsts, a church of extravagant welcome, and a church where "...they may all be one" (John 17:21).

	<p>United Church of Christ Special Mission Offerings (SMOs)</p>	<p>Special Mission Offerings (SMOs) exist to allow congregations and individuals to meet people at points of critical need in their lives. The Offerings sponsor vital ministries that bring hope to people in the U.S. and around the world. There are five Annual offerings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * One Great Hour of Sharing * Strengthen the Church * Neighbors in Need * The Christmas Fund for Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund * Our Churches Wider Mission.
	<p>United Church of Christ Special Mission Offerings (SMOs):</p> <p><i>One Great Hour of Sharing</i></p>	<p>One Great Hour of Sharing channels resources for international programs in health, education and agricultural development, emergency relief, refugee ministries, and both international and domestic disaster response, administered by Wider Church Ministries, Global Sharing of Resources. This offering is received on the Fourth Sunday of Lent.</p>
U	<p>United Church of Christ Special Mission Offerings (SMOs):</p> <p><i>Strengthen the Church</i></p>	<p>Strengthen the Church offering supports the expansion of ministry and growth of United Church of Christ (UCC) local congregations. 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. This offering is received on Pentecost Sunday.</p>
	<p>United Church of Christ Special Mission Offerings (SMOs):</p> <p><i>Neighbors in Need</i></p>	<p>Neighbors in Need supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. One-third of NIN funds support the Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM). Two-thirds of the offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries (JWM) to support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects through grants. This offering is received on the First Sunday in October as part of World Communion Sunday.</p>
	<p>United Church of Christ Special Mission Offerings (SMOs):</p> <p><i>The Christmas Fund for the Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund</i></p>	<p>The Christmas Fund for the Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund is administered through the United Church Board for Ministerial Assistance, the charitable arm of the Pension Boards. Funds provide direct financial support to those who serve the church and are facing financial difficulties. This offering is received at LCC on Christmas Eve.</p>
	<p>United Church of Christ Special Mission Offerings (SMOs):</p> <p><i>Our Church's Wider Mission</i></p>	<p>Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM) funds the work the UCC does in its Associations and Conferences, and in the national and global church. OCWM funds are invested in programs, resources, and tools needed to keep local UCC churches strong, effective, and growing. This is a Budget line item in the church's Operating Budget to which Women's Fellowship contributes \$2,000.00 each year.</p>
V	<p>Volunteer Opportunities</p>	<p>There are many volunteer opportunities including: Sunday worship reader, Sunday greeter, Sunday coffee hour, monthly pancake breakfasts, monthly community meals, Strawberry supper, Grandma's Attic and more.</p>
	<p>Way Station</p>	<p>The Gurdon Bill country store and stagecoach way station was once a meeting place of local residents and passing travelers. The building retains its original features and location. Two important roads of early New England (now Church Hill Road and Spicer Hill Road) intersected at this point.</p>

	Website	ledyardcongregational.org
W	Weekly Email Blasts	Each Thursday, the church office sends out an email blast with information for our Sunday morning worship service, as well as information about upcoming events. If you don't currently receive these emails and would like to, contact the church office.
	Women's Fellowship	Women's Fellowship is open to anyone who would like to join us. You do not need to be a member of Ledyard Congregational Church. Meetings are held the second Tuesday of the month from 7:00-8:30 pm, September through May. Meetings generally feature a guest speaker.
	Worship Services	Worship services are held Sunday mornings at 9:30. Links to services are available on Facebook or via Zoom. Contact the church office for more information.
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Z	Zoom Worship	Our Sunday morning worship services can be viewed on Zoom. Directions for joining our worship service can be found in the weekly email blast sent out by the church office.

January 11, 2024

This is the first printing of the LCC A-Z. It will be updated as needed.