

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

In This Issue

A Message from Pastor Pat	1-2
Love & Blessings	2
March Birthdays & Anniversaries	2
Looking for Sign Letters	2
From the Pastor's Desk	2
Church Office Hours	2
Lenten Study Group	2
Keep in Your Prayers	3
March Scripture Readings	3
Spring Forward	3
Faith Formation & Sunday School	4
Holy Week Services	5
March Community Supper	5
Take Care	5
Church Safety Update	5
Red Cross Blood Drive	6
Ledyard Food Pantry Wish List	6
Mark Your Calendar — Myers Briggs Type Indicator	6
Pancake Breakfasts	7
Looking For New Missions Members	7
Chatter on the Church Website	7
Missions	8-9
Welcome New Members	9
Women's Fellowship	10
Wednesday Morning Bible Study	10
Chatter Deadline	10
Help Needed for Church Council	10
Prostate Cancer Support Group	11
Update Your Information	11
Church Calendar	11

A Message From Pastor Pat

What's in a Name?

As it turns out, quite a bit. After ample discussion and prayerful consideration, the Board of Worship and Music is returning to the name Board of Deacons. The functionality of the Board will not change. It is a symbolic change in nomenclature that makes us consistent with the New Testament.

"The English word for deacon is the translation of the Greek word diakonos, which appears 29 times in the New Testament. However, only four of those twenty nine occurrences refer to a person. The other instances of the word simply mean servant or messenger or one who ministers for the sake of others."

As the early church continued to grow there was a need for the "flock" to be cared for while the apostles were out preaching the word. You can read about it in Acts 6. The first seven deacons, were men. Romans 16:1-2, however commends "Phoebe, a servant (diaknonos) of

the church at Cenchreae. It is an important issue because it points to the leadership roles that women had in the early church. Jesus had women in his cohort of followers, there was no reason the apostles should not.

The biblical role of deacon as mostly described in Acts 6 and is understood as providing both service and ministry in a way that offered logistical and material support to the elders, so they could concentrate on spreading the gospel. In the life of the early church it was a central role. The role of deacon evolved on the same timeline as the role of elders. Given the role of elders in administering the affairs of the church and overseeing the ministry of the deacons, it is widely believed that the role of pastor grew out of the role of Elder. In some traditions, clergy are called Elders.

In most of the churches I have served the role of the deacon was to tend to the flock, prepare and, in conjunction with the pastor,

Continued on page 2

Page 2 March 2024

continued from page 1
administer the sacraments, and
assist in worship as needed. All these
functions happened faithfully under
the Board of Worship and Music,
thanks to dedicated visitors and
helpers in lots of tasks. The change
of name simply brings us closer to
the model of the New Testament
Church.

Faithfully, Pastor Pat



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



March Birthdays

Michelle Damm	3/3
Jack Allyn	3/4
Sophie Allyn	3/4
Vicki DiFilippo	3/4

Dot Fossett	3/7
Kadin McCarthy	3/9
Donna Clark	3/9
Jeanne Allyn	3/10
Alicia Wessel	3/12
Janet Barnett	3/14
Karen Rhoades	3/14
Rich Denton	3/18
Luca DiFilippo	3/18
Oakley Dunn	3/19
Kathie Saums	3/19
Mason Araujo	3/20
Carrie Burger	3/22
Holly Rust	3/22
Steve Burger	3/24
Samantha Barnes	3/25
Brenda Foltz	3/26
Ed Lamb II	3/27
Bill Saums	3/27

March Anniversaries

Ken & Carrie Burger	3/10
Rob & Sue Burns	3/10
Ken & Joyce Garstka	3/10
Ed Lamb & Marlaine Bernier	3/20
Steve & Kim Williams	3/22

Looking For the Letters for the Sign Board?

B C

They are now in the closet in the Holdridge library.

From the Pastor's Desk

Office Hours

Wednesdays & Fridays 8:30 a.m.—12:30 p.m.

Please call or text 401-499-7752, or email pliberty57@gmail.com to set up an appointment. Other times are available by request, please don't hesitate to ask!

Church Office Hours

The church office is now open on Tuesday, Wednesday, & Friday 8:30am-2:30pm.

Phone: 860-464-9926 Fmail:

<u>ledyard.cong.church@gmail.com</u>
Website:

www.ledyardcongregational.org



LENTEN STUDY

Wednesdays
February 21st through
March 20th

7:00 p.m. in the Holdridge Library

We will be using the book, Meeting
Jesus Again for the First Time. The
Historical Jesus & The Heart of
Contemporary Faith, by Marcus J.
Borg.

Books are available from Amazon and other book sellers. It is helpful if each family has their own book.

Hope to see you there.

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, Jeanne Allyn (860) 464-9316, or Janet Barnet (860) 287-6322. Please include the name of the person(s) to be added/deleted as well as your contact information. Thank you!

- The family of Peg Ayer
- Deb Betz
- The family of Bill Dambach
- Bill Dawson
- Fred
- Joan Jirsa
- The family of Ellen Lawrence
- Cindy M.
- Johanna Nolan
- Jim Seaton
- Jim Sorensen
- Jeanne and Roy Warren
- Ethel Watson
- Marge Wilson



March Scripture Readings

Sunday, March 3

Third Sunday in Lent

Exodus 20:1-17 • Psalm 19 • 1 Corinthians 1:18-25 • John 2:13-22

Genesis 3 and 4 Selected Verses

Sunday, March 10

Fourth Sunday in Lent

Numbers 21:4-9 • Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22 • Ephesians 2:1-10 • John 3:14-21

* Jonah 3:1-4:5

Sunday, March 17

Fifth Sunday in Lent

Jeremiah 31:31-34 • Psalm 51:1-12 or Psalm 119:9-16 • Hebrews 5:5-10

• John 12:20-33 * Judges 6

Sunday, March 24

Palm Sunday

Isaiah 50:4-9a • Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29 • Philippians 2:5-11 • Mark 11:1-11 or John 12:12-16 * Mark 11:1-11

Maundy Thursday, March 28

Holy Thursday

Exodus 12:1-4, (5-10), 11-14 • Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19

• 1 Corinthians 11:23-26 • John 13:1-17, 31b-35

Sunday, March 31

Easter Day

Acts 10:34-43 or Isaiah 25:6-9 • Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

• 1 Corinthians 15:1-11 or Acts 10:34-43 • John 20:1-18

or Mark 16:1-8 *Mark 16:1-8

* These are the readings which Rev. Pat will be using.

Spring Forward Forward

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.

Don't forget to set your clocks ahead one hour on Sunday, March 10th!

Page 4 March 2024

Faith Formation and Sunday School



In January and February, the children in Faith Formation were engaged in a study entitled From Manger To Home. This came about as children had questions about where Jesus would live, having been born in a manger. It also seemed like a relevant way to tie in Gabriela's South Sudan Well Fundraising Project, by comparing the homes in South Sudan and our own homes. Children couldn't imagine a home without running water; or what it would be like to have the responsibility of walking several miles daily to gather water for their family and community; or the possibility of getting ill from drinking non-potable water. All of this led to a discussion of helpers. Who are the helpers in their lives? How do they help at home, and each other? A reading of the story of the Good Samaritan, singing Mr. Roger's, Who Are The People In Your Neighborhood, and the classic children's song, *The More We Get Together,* helped us to express our ideas about helpers and good neighbors. We learned from the children that Gabriela's project reflects God's mandate to treat all people as we would want to be treated. We also learned that our children are helpers in their homes and in their schools. They help a friend on the playground who can't

climb the bars without assistance, or

who falls and gets hurt. They help their parents with the dishes, or by offering hugs and kind words.

Additionally, we had a special visit from The Pediatric Dental Health Association. Children met with dental students to learn about proper brushing and the foods that support good dental health. Just another example of helpful people in our extended neighborhoods.

We want to thank everyone who joined Gabriela and Luca in a discussion of the book, *A Long Walk to Water.* Intergenerational conversations offer opportunities for all to broaden perspectives and share ideas. We learned from Gabriela that she continues to find ways to raise more money towards the drilling and upkeep of wells. As these opportunities unfold, we will keep everyone informed.

Our study of home continues into March. Children are constructing posters at home with their families, representing the things that are important to their family's lives and their experience of home. These posters allow the children to share their feelings about home with each other, and deepen their understanding of the many reasons we help others who are in need.

After Easter we will organize a culminating service with Reverend Pat, and share our posters and

insights with the full church community.

As spring approaches, it seems appropriate to move our focus to the outdoors. Nature is alive with examples of birth and rebirth. We are planning to start a garden, perhaps by first planting seeds indoors. We welcome the expertise of those of you who love to garden as we make plans for a children's garden outdoors.

In January, Dolly, Anita, and Alicia met with Melissa Spindler-Smith, the youth minister at Park Congregational Church in Norwich. Melissa is certified to teach the OWL (Our Whole Lives) curriculum developed by Unitarian Universalist Association and United Church of **Christ Justice and Witness** Ministries. It is a sexual education curriculum designed for children, teenagers, young adults, and adults. It is our hope that in the future, Melissa will offer an introduction to this curriculum to our community. Additionally, Park Congregational Church offers a youth activity program on Sunday afternoons, 2:00 -3:30, and our pre-teens and teens are welcome to attend.

The Faith Formation Team is grateful for the guidance and support of our congregation. Please feel free to reach out with your hopes and wishes for a successful Sunday School program.



Worship Services for Holy Week

Sunday, March 24 | 9:30 a.m. Palm Sunday

Thursday, March 28 | 7:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday

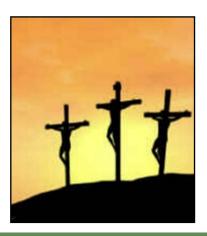
Sunday, March 31 | 7:00 a.m. Easter Sunday

Sunrise Service in the Outdoor
Chapel on Rte. 117 opposite
Church Hill Rd. Park on Church Hill
Rd. and watch for the flag
marking the path.

*Breakfast to follow in the church Fellowship Hall!

March 31 | 9:30 a.m.

*There will be an Easter Egg Hunt during Sunday School!





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!

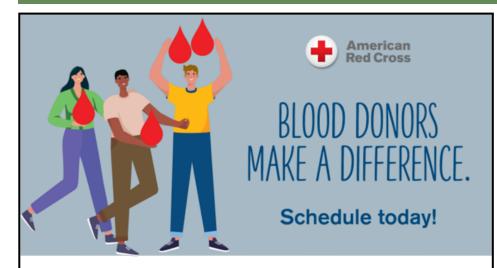
Church Safety Update

The doors to the church are unlocked while the church office is open and people are there.

As a courtesy to Alicia, please enter via the door near her office so she is aware of visitors.

Thank you!

Page 6 March 2024



BLOOD DRIVE

Ledyard Congregational Church

722 Colonel Ledyard Hwy, Ledyard

Wednesday, February 28th 11:00 am - 4:00 pm

Please call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit **redcrossblood.org** and enter: **LedyardCong** to schedule an appointment.



Share your heart! Come give in Feb. for a \$20 Amazon.com Gift Card by email. See rcblood.org/heart.

Scan to sign up

Save up to 15 minutes at your donation. Visit redcrossblood.org/rapidpass to get started!

1-800-RED CROSS | 1-800-733-2767 | RedCrossBlood.org | Download the Blood Donor App

Linda C Davis Food Pantry Wish List 1-22-24

* Coffee Creamer * Oatmeal * Progresso & Chunky Beef Soup * Stewed Tomatoes * Tomato paste * Tomato Sauce * Baked Beans * Liquid Soap * Shampoo * Body Wash

Mark Your Calendar!

The MBTI is coming to LCC! MBTI stands for Myers Briggs Type Indicator. It is the most popular personality assessment tool in the world. There are two opportunities for your to participate. March 9, 10:00-12:00 or March 13, 7:00-9:00. There is no cost to participate, but you must sign up. A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board on the wall in the hallway across from the offices.

The MBTI helps us understand how different people receive and process information, make decisions and interact with others. It is a first step in building greater tolerance for people who are different than we are. It is a great aid in team building, helping boards and committees function more efficiently and building goodwill in the congregation.

It's also a lot of fun!

I hope you will sign up and participate.

Pastor Pat and the Interim Steering Committee



FREE



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, March 2nd

The featured organization is our local Girl Scout troop. Donations will go to charities chosen by the scouts.

Saturday, April 6th

The featured organization is Days for Girls.

Saturday, May 4th

The featured organization is LCC
Music committee. We will be
treated to

Saturday, June 1st
The featured organization will be
the Ledyard Little League.

ALL ARE WELCOME!

MISSIONS

Our Board of Missions is Looking for More Members!

The Board of Missions is currently looking for people who would like to join our board. We are involved in a wide range of ongoing activities. These include the monthly pancake breakfasts, monthly community suppers where we partner with the board of hospitality, and quarterly Red Cross Blood Drives. We also hold drives where we ask for donations for specific programs. In February we sponsored the Valentine making workshop which was a big hit. We mailed off 38 valentines to people who can't get to church and also to people we haven't seen in a while just to let them know we were thinking of them. People (kids) also made lots of valentines for other people.

In March, we will be collecting items to fill Easter baskets for the children living in the Safe Futures shelters. We will then gather on Palm Sunday to assemble the baskets and they will be delivered to Safe Futures. This has become an annual event, and we love being able to bring some joy to these children.

We will be starting to plan for our next few activities and would love your input.

We realize Sunday after church is

not an opportune time to meet for some people and are looking for optional meeting times. If you would like to find out more about our missions, we invite you to join us at our next meeting and/or let Meredith Schuft

chrisandmeri@gmavt.net or Jill Thorne gbthorne@sbcglobal.net know you are interested and to suggest meeting times that would work for you. We look forward to welcoming new members to help us continue our outreach to our community and the wider world.

Thank you,
Meredith and Jill

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: <u>Ledyard Congregational</u>
<u>Church.org</u> and click on the
Chatter drop down box.

A message from

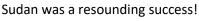
Tote for Linda Davis Food Pantry Donations

There is a tote to leave donations at any time for the food pantry on the walkway outside the entrance to the church offices which we will be checking periodically.

On the first Sunday of each month, which is also Communion Sunday, the tote will be brought up to the Sanctuary to receive donations which we will be dedicating as part of our offering. This will give us a chance to acknowledge our continuing commitment to providing needed items to help support the food pantry. Please be sure to check the expiration date on all items you are donating! Please see the list of items currently needed on page 6.

January 6th Pancake Breakfast Update

Our January Pancake Breakfast, highlighting Gabriela DiFilippo's mission project to raise funds to drill wells for water in Southern



The profit from the breakfast was \$1,373 and as promised, Missions matched it. Additionally there was \$450 donated online bringing the total raised to \$3,170! On Sunday

January 28th Gabriela and Pastor Pat created a powerful and moving worship service and almost \$1000 was donated that morning. The original goal was to raise \$1,000 for the drilling and upkeep of wells. We now have funds for four wells!

Red Cross Blood Drive on February 28th.



We will be holding our next drive on Wednesday, February **00** 28th, from 11:00 a.m. SAVE LIFE to 4:00 p.m., in

Fellowship Hall.

The American Red Cross is experiencing an emergency blood shortage as the nation faces the lowest number of people giving blood in 20 years. Your blood donation is needed now to help alleviate the shortage and ensure lifesaving medical procedures are not delayed.

Having people sign up to donate ahead of time is helpful! That way we can be sure we have enough staff on hand to expedite the process. It's easy to do! You can call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767), visit RedCrossBlood.org, or use the QR code on the poster on page 6 to schedule an appointment! Not sure of your schedule? Walk-ins are always welcome!

If you are interested in volunteering during the drive or donating snacks

(wrapped individually), please contact Jill Thorne at gbthorne@sbcglobal.net or via phone 860-912-0924. Your help is always welcome!

We continue to be committed to holding Blood Drives as an ongoing mission of our church and are grateful for the support we receive from our community and church members and friends.

Easter Baskets for the Children in **Safe Futures Housing Through** Sunday, March 24th

Once again, the Mission committee will be collecting items to fill Easter baskets for the children. We are still waiting for the information on the children, but will be looking for donations of any small items a child might like. Suggestions include plastic eggs, candy, card games, hair accessories, crayons, markers, stickers, and any other items you can think of that would fit into the baskets. The Missions committee will purchase the baskets to insure they are all the same. WE DO NOT **NEED ANY GRASS!**

We will be collecting items through Sunday, March 24th, Palm Sunday. Please bring your donation to church on Sunday or drop them off in the basket on the bench outside the church office any time the office is open.

Safe Futures is a wonderful

organization that as stated on their website, "saves lives, restores hope, and changes the future for those impacted by domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, and trafficking in southeastern Connecticut". They provide a variety of resources to individuals and families in need as a result of abuse, including temporary housing.

Thank you for helping us put a smile on the faces of all these children!

One Great Hour of Sharing Special
UCC Missions Offering to be
Received on Sunday, March 10th

This year's theme is Share the Light.

One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS)
special mission offering of the
United Church of Christ is involved in
disaster, refugee/immigration, and
development ministries throughout
the world. When a disaster strikes or
people are displaced or made
refugees by violence or extreme
poverty, you can be part of the
immediate response and of the longterm recovery.

Through **OGHS** you engage in holistic development programs including health care, education, agriculture, food sustainability, micro-financing and women's empowerment.

Because the UCC relates in mutual partnership to churches and organizations through Global Ministries and worldwide response & recovery networks, your contributions to **One Great Hour of**



Sharing put you in the right place at the right time for the relief, accompaniment and recovery of the most vulnerable. You meet immediate needs and you address the underlying causes that create those needs in the first place.

On Sunday, March 10th you will find an insert in your bulletin and an envelope for a donation in your pew. You can also use the QR code in the bulletin to donate online.

Click on "Give to the General Fund" and select One Great Hour of Sharing. Through your donation, you help meet immediate needs and address the underlying causes that create those needs in the first place. Thank you for your support!

Monthly Community Suppers

Our monthly community suppers on the 3rd Thursday of the month continue to be well attended with about 50 people attending each month, including both church members and members of our community. These are all made possible thanks to our volunteers and all our cooks.

We also want to give a huge shoutout to **Jackie and Valentinos Restaurant** for their generous donations of delicious food every month. Thank You!

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.

Thank you from Missions

New Members

We will welcome new members on Sunday, March 3, 2024.

- Tom and Bobbi Bushaw
- Joe and Victoria Woodmancy
- · Beth Smith
- Kathy Fletcher

We are honored to have these wonderful people join our church family. Please be sure to welcome them during coffee hour! Page 10 March 2024

Women's FELLOWSHIP

Saturday, February 10th SOUP-ER-BOWL LUNCH

Our Soup-er Bowl luncheon on Saturday, February 10, 2024, was a great success. About fifty people attended for a lunch and panel discussion. The panel included Jim Austin, Ellen Granger, and Sue Johnson, speaking on finances, legal issues, and residential issues important to a "mature" audience!

Tuesday, March 12 Meeting

Our March 12 Women's Fellowship meeting will include creating some Spring Cheer. In addition to the meeting we will spend time putting together some baskets to give to those who perhaps may need a little cheer. All materials will be provided.

Tuesday, March 26th Luncheon Out

Our March luncheon out will be held on Tuesday, March 26th at 11:30 a.m. Watch for an email with the location and a links to RSVP. Hope you can join us!

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. 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 and I will pass it along to our Program committee.

Meredith Schuft, Chair Email: chrisandmeri@gmavt.net

BIBLE STUDY CONTINUES ON WEDNESDAY MORINNGS

Holdridge Library 10:30—11:30 a.m.

Wednesday, February 28th

Returning from Doubt
Genesis 3 and 4 Selected
Verses

Wednesday, March 6th

Returning from Anger Jonah 3:1-4:5

Wednesday, March 13th

Returning from Fear Judges 6

Wednesday, March 20th

Returning Home Mark 11:1-11

Wednesday, March 27th

Risen Mark 16:1-8



APRIL Chatter
Deadline is FRIDAY
MARCH 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. Your early, or at least on time submission will make my job that much easier!

Thank You, Meredith Schuft

Help Needed for Church Council!

We are in need of a secretary to Council. The duties of this volunteer position are simply taking notes at the Church Council meetings.

The Council meets monthly, but if you cannot attend a particular meeting, there are always people happy to fill in. It's a good way to know firsthand what's going on at church, too!

If you could help out, please contact ether Sue Burns or Bill Barnes.





PROSTATE CANCER

Support Group

The Prostate cancer Support Group is now meeting at the Ledyard Congregational Church, 722 Colonel Ledyard Highway in Ledyard.

We will meet in the Lester Room 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 more information and questions please contact John Clark at (860) 464-7651

Thank you.

Update Your Information

We would like to be sure to have your most current contact information (names of family members, address, phone numbers, email, important dates, and/or any other updates) and to announce your birthdays and anniversaries in the monthly Chatter newsletter.

Email updates: ledyard.cong.church@gmail.com. Thank you!

LCC 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.

Not on Breeze yet? Contact Chris via email: chrisschuft@gmavt.net or via phone: 802-488-0802 to .

Board and Committee chairs have the ability to add events to the calendar in Breeze. Additionally, you can also email your meetings and events to the church office and ask for it to be added.

Footon Floren On	der Form — 2024
Easter Flower Or	der Form — 2024
Would you like to help adorn the sanctu	uary with Easter flowers on Easter Sunday
March 31st in honor of or in memory of a love	ed one? To do so, simply fill in the information
below and make a check out to Ledyard Congregational Chur	rch with Easter Flowers on the memo line. Due to pastor Pat's
llergy to lilies & hyacinths, a variety of potted spring flowers w	vill be purchased at \$15.00 each. Mail the completed form along
ith your check to Ellen Seeman, 8 Darrows Ridge Rd., East Lym	ne, CT 06333 or leave it in the Clerk's mailbox outside the church
offices. Orders must be received by MARCH 24TH. Order	forms are also available on the table in the Fellowship Hall.
Vour Nama(s):	Phone #
Your Name(s):	Priorie #
Name(s) to be remembered:	
Name(s) to be honored:	
	\$ (made out to: <u>Ledyard Congregational Church</u>)



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

Ledyard Congregational Church

722 Colonel. Ledyard Highway Ledyard, CT 06339

Phone: 860-464-9926
Email: ledyard.cong.church@gmail.com
Website: www.ledyardcongregational.org

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





Time Dated Material Return Service Requested