

Church Chatter

May 2024

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

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A Message From Pastor Pat

An Important Read

This may be the most important book you read this year. [The False White Gospel, Rejecting Christian Nationalism, Reclaiming True Faith and Refounding Democracy](#) by Jim Wallis is a stunning analysis of the religious landscape in contemporary American Culture and its impact on politics. "Wallis is America's prophet and moral philosopher," says Otis Moss III, Senior Pastor of Trinity United Church of Christ. He is passionately Christian and deeply faithful to the best of what Christianity stands for.

"It is time, says Jim Wallis, to call out genuine faith—specifically the 'Christian' in white Christian nationalism—inviting all who can be persuaded to reject and help dismantle a false gospel that propagates white supremacy and autocracy. We need to raise up the faith of all of us, and help those who are oblivious, stuck, and captive to ideology and idolatry.

Wallis turns our attention to six

iconic texts at the heart of what genuine biblical faith means and what Jesus, in the gospels, has called us to do. It is time to ask anew: Do we believe these teachings or not? When we see a civic promotion of fear, hate, and violence, we need a civic faith of love, healing and hope to defeat it. And that must involve all of us—religious or not. Learning to practice a politics of neighbor love will be central to the future of democracy in America.

More than ever, the words of Jesus ring, "You will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." *From the book jacket*

If you read nothing else this year, please read this. New York Times best selling author of [The Hidden Roots of White Supremacy](#) (which I also highly recommend) writes, "Wallis sounds the alarm—arguing that the rise of white Christian nationalism is not just another symptom of partisan conflict but a false white gospel that threatens to destroy both democracy and the

Continued on page 2

Continued from page 1
integrity of white churches.”

Wallis is not one for hyperbole. He writes with fervent passion for scripture, an ability to see beyond what is obvious and a deep concise analysis of the contemporary landscape of religion and politics. This is NOT a partisan book; it is a Christian book. If you care about faith and democracy, this book should rocket to the top of your “to be read” pile. It did mine.

Faithfully and with Deep Affection,

Pastor Pat

From the Pastor’s Desk

Office Hours

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

If you would like to make an appointment, please contact Pastor Pat. Other times are available by request, please don’t hesitate to ask!

Email: pliberty57@gmail.com
Cell: (401) 299-7752

Worship Leaders

If you would like to be added to the list of volunteers to be a worship reader please contact Beth Smith (fraugurusan@yahoo.com).

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



May Birthdays

Deb Frazer	5/1
Eric Ganz	5/2
Kelsey Williams	5/2
Jami Allyn	5/3
Allie Holdridge	5/4
Gay Collins	5/13
Cindy Atkinson	5/14
Quinn O’Donnell	5/14
Jessica Burger	5/18
Mary Foltz	5/20
Lee Moore	5/20
Sue Burns	5/21
Elli Hansen	5/21
Aaron Hayes	5/23
Jennie Austin	5/24
Stephen Hayes	5/25
Mary Collins	5/29



May Anniversaries

Tom & Marie Olson	5/1
David & Jody Lees	5/26
Bill & Cari Barnes	5/28

Church Office Hours

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

Phone: 860-464-9926

Email:

ledyard.cong.church@gmail.com

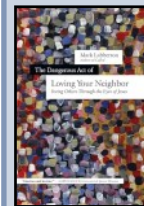
Website:

www.ledyardcongregational.org



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

- | | |
|-------------|---------------|
| Bill Barnes | Oliver Murphy |
| Tye Frazer | Troy Hedman |
| Kyle Murphy | |



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

The Book Study Group continues to meet on Wednesday night. We are now reading, *The Dangerous Act of Loving Your Neighbor: Seeing Others Through the Eyes of Jesus*, by Mark Labberton.

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 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






May Scripture Readings

Sunday, May 5
Sixth Sunday of Easter
 Acts 10:44-48 • Psalm 98 • 1 John 5:1-6 • John 15:9-17

Sunday, May 12
Seventh Sunday of Easter
 Acts 1:15-17, 21-26 • Psalm 1 • 1 John 5:9-13 • John 17:6-19

Sunday, May 19
Pentecost
 Acts 2:1-21 or Ezekiel 37:1-14 • Psalm 104:24-34, 35b • Romans 8:22-27 or Acts 2:1-21 • John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15

Sunday, May 26
First Sunday after Pentecost
 Isaiah 6:1-8 Psalm 29 • Romans 8:12-17 • John 3:1-17



Linda C Davis Food Pantry

Wish List 4-16-2024

* Coffee Creamer	* Stewed Tomatoes	* Chicken Gravy
* Mustard	* Tomato Paste	* Cookie Mix
* Ketchup	* Tomato Sauce	* Tall Trash Bags
* BBQ Sauce	* Baked Beans – Large & Small	* Baby Wipes
* Oatmeal	* Corned Beef Hash	* Shampoo
* Cereal	* Cup of Noodles	* Toothbrushes
* Applesauce	* – Beef	* Feminine Hygiene Products
* Peaches	* All Ramen	* Liquid Soap
* Pears	* Chicken Broth	* Deodorant – Male
* Mandarin Oranges		
* Peanut Butter		

Faith Formation and Sunday School



Faith Formation

Mark Your Calendar!

The Faith Formation Team is preparing to welcome **Park Church Associate Minister, Melissa Spindler-Smith** on May 5th, 2:00-3:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall for her workshop, **Our Whole Lives: The Complexity of Sexual Identity**. Church communities throughout the UCC strive to be open and inclusive to all, and this is an opportunity to strengthen our support and connection to our youth, the wider community, and to one another as we learn about the complexities of sexual identity in the 21st century. This workshop is for all adults. High School students are welcome. Middle school students should attend with a parent. Childcare will be provided for children ages 2 and older. Contact the Church Office to RSVP for childcare by May 2nd. We invite you to help us spread the word. This workshop is open to the community!

Memorial Day Parade

Faith Formation is planning on having a presence in the Manorial Day Parade. This is an opportunity to let the community know what we are doing with signs, banners and a model of our church. The whole church is invited to walk and to help announce the coming **Celebration of 300 years in Ledyard Center** and the

formation of the town of Ledyard.

Sunday School

It is spring, a time of renewal and rebirth and it is a perfect time to start a children's garden. You have probably seen the raised bed frames between the office and fellowship hall. Thank you Aric! During Sunday School, we will be starting seeds indoors, and hope that the beds will be planted by the end of May. Let the gardening begin!


Why garden with children? The lessons of gardening are lessons for life. Sprouting seeds is a delicate process that involves observation and care. Preparing garden beds is physical, requiring effort. The rewards develop slowly, requiring dedication and patience. Gardening is an act of hope and care. A garden encourages us to follow a plan. There is a promise that our seeds will grow, but it takes faith and dedication to bring about results. It connects curiosity and wonder to the mystery and miracles of God and nature.

To those of you who like to garden, we invite you to come and talk with our Sunday School students and share your gardening stories and knowledge.

The Faith Formation Team appreciates your support and encouragement as we strive to support our children. Your thoughts

and wishes for a successful Sunday School are welcomed and encouraged.


Dolly, Anita, and the Faith Formation Team



JUNE Chatter Deadline is
**WEDNESDAY
MAY 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. I will be away starting Wednesday, May 15th through Friday, the 24th so early submission will make my job that much easier and hopefully be able to get the Chatter out on time!

Thank You, Meredith Schuft



**Help Us Honor
the Class of
2024!**

We would like to celebrate this year's high school, college, and those graduating from a special programs. Please email the names of your children, grandchildren, or anyone else you know of to: chrisandmeri@gmavt.net and I'll be sure to honor them all in the June issue of the Chatter. ~Meredith



PROSTATE CANCER

Support Group

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

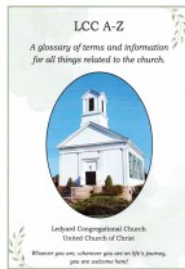
We will meet in the Lester Room on the third Tuesday of the month from 7:00-8:30pm.

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.

LCC A-Z

The LCC A-Z will be updated in June. Any information to add or to delete, can be submitted to Beth Smith (fraugurusan@yahoo.com).



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!

May Community Supper

Come join us at the
Ledyard Congregational Church
on the third Thursday of every month.

**Thursday, May 16, 2024, our theme will be
"Cooks' Choice"!**

Come and see what our amazing
cooks come up with!

Supper will be served at 5:30pm.

This **FREE** supper is open to all!
Come and sit for a while. Enjoy a hot meal,
conversation, and community!

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

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.

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 or via phone: 802-488-0802 and he will get you up and running.



REGISTRATION IS OPEN

www.SilverLakeCT.org/SummerCamp

 Southern New England Conference
United Church of Christ
Living the Love & Justice of Jesus



SILVER LAKE
Camp & Retreat Center

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: [Ledyard Congregational Church.org](http://LedyardCongregationalChurch.org) and click on the Chatter drop down box.

SPRING CLEANING?

GRANDMA'S ATTIC DONATIONS ARE BEING ACCEPTED NOW!

Bring all items in good, usable condition to the carriage house during office hours!



LCC WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP WRITING GROUP

METTING #1


BRING YOUR FAVORITE WRITING TOOLS-- JOURNAL, TABLET, LAPTOP, ETC. WE WILL DISCUSS WRITING IDEAS, HAVE TIME TO WRITE, AND HAVE TIME TO SHARE IDEAS.

WED, 17 APRIL 2024 1:30PM-3PM

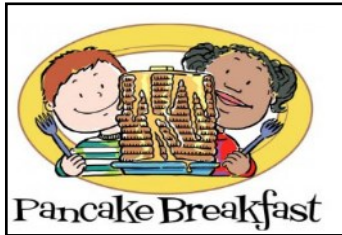
LESTER ROOM @ LEDYARD CONGERGATIONAL CHURCH
722 COLONEL LEDYARD HWY
LEDYARD, CT 06339

ALL ARE WELCOME

NO MATTER RACE, CREED, GENDER, OR IDENTITY, WE WELCOME YOU TO ENJOY A FREE SPACE TO CREATE AND SHARE.



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, May 4th

Come one, come all! Come out to the church's pancake breakfast this Saturday. You'll get a delicious start to your day -- along with musical entertainment! The free-will offering will go toward the church's music ministry.

Saturday, June 1st

The featured organization will be the Ledyard Little League.

Saturday, July 6th

The featured organization will be the Ledyard Beautification Committee.

ALL ARE WELCOME!



Thank you to everyone who donated flowers to help adorn our sanctuary on Easter Sunday. As you can see from the photo, it was lovely!

Given By:

- Ellen & Mark Stasko
- Beth Smith
- Carrie & Ken Burger
- Marion Singer & Family
- Sorenson Family.....
- John & Donna Clark.....
- Margaret Wilson
- The Dambach Family.....
- Chris & Meredith Schuft
- Virginia Hungerford.....
- Sue & Rob Burns
- Patricia Defosse
- Darlene Maskulak
- Sue & Paul Johnson
- Kathie & Bill Saums
- Jane Bliven
- Ellen Seeman

In Memory Of:

- Ellie & Bruce Bernard,
Frank & Hazel Stasko
- Jane & Wee Smith
- Wesley & Carol Rethwill, Herb Burger
- Earl, Doris & Robert Lamb,
Henry Singer & Tim Pocock
- Loved Ones
- Jack & Ruth Clark, Sam & Kay Youmans
- Margaret & Burriss Wilson
- Lena Marie & Bill Dambach
- Alison & Edward Slade, Betty & Howard Schuft,
Susan Morrison, & Ken Slade
- Ruth & Ed Wasson
- For family....here on Earth & those in Heaven
- Philip & Juliette Voisine
- Michael J. Muskulak
- Parents
- Bill & Olivia Onusko, Bill & Dorothy Saums
- Loved Ones
- Margaret & John Vogel

Given By:

- Janet Barnett.....
- Carrie & Ken Burger

In Honor Of:

- Family & Friends
- Mary Burger

A message from

MISSIONS

Tote for Linda Davis Food Pantry Donations

We continue to collect donations for the food pantry. You can bring your donation to church on Sunday or leave anytime in the tote 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! And please see the list of items currently needed on page 3.

Easter Baskets for the Children in Safe Futures Shelters

Thank you to everyone for your donations to help fill the Easter baskets for the 22 children living in Safe Futures shelters.



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

Red Cross Blood Drive

Wednesday, May 8th

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.



We will be holding our next drive on Wednesday, May 8th, from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., in Fellowship Hall.

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 the right 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.

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. If you haven't attended one of these suppers, you have been missing out on some great meals!

Church World Service's Blanket Sunday is Mother's Day, May 12th

Once again, we will be participating in the Church World Service's (CWS) Blanket Sunday. From now through Sunday May 12th (Mother's Day) we are inviting you to make a \$10.00 donation towards a blanket in honor of or in memory of someone. We have blanket gift cards available, which you can take to send an acknowledgment of your gift. Giving a donation for a blanket enables Church World Service to be able to offer these blankets to others. CWS gave away 32,785 blankets last year! "When disasters strike, when temperatures drop, when sidewalks become home...you make sure someone is there offering warmth".

Ordering a blanket is simple. Just fill out an order form which can be found on pag11 and also on the table in Fellowship Hall. Then make a check out to **Ledyard Congregational Church with CWS Blanket Fund on the memo line.** Then mail both your form and the check to Ellen Seeman, 8 Darrows Ridge Rd., East Lyme, CT 06333 or leave it in the mission’s mailbox outside the church offices. **Please print clearly!**

Strengthen the Church Special Missions Offering Will be Received on Pentecost Sunday, May 19th
We invite you all to wear red in celebration of Pentecost!

Our second special offering for 2024 and one of the four United Church of Christ (UCC) annual offerings funded through donations received from congregations is **Strengthen the Church (STC)**. This year’s theme is “On Holy Ground”.

“The Strengthen the Church (STC) offering reflects the shared commitment of people across the United Church of Christ to cooperatively build up the UCC. Conferences and the national setting equally share the gifts given by members and friends through their local congregations. The funds raised support leadership development, new churches, youth ministry, and innovation in existing congregations. By your generosity to



this offering, you build up the Body of Christ.”

As we continue to strive to be a “Five for Five” church each year by

giving generously to all five of the UCC special offerings, we thank you for your help in supporting these important ministries of the United Church of Christ!

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 your Missions members; Janet Barnett, Vicky DeFilippo, Kathy Fletcher, Pastor Pat, Sara Holdridge, Anita Merando, Dee Potter, Meredith Schuft, Ellen Seeman, & Jill Thorne.

BIBLE STUDY CONTINUES ON WEDNESDAY MORNING 10:00—11:00 a.m.



Each week we meet on Wednesday morning in the Holdridge library and discuss the scripture for the upcoming Sunday in a relaxed and fun setting.

All are welcome!

CALLING ALL PHOTOS



Our church is about to celebrate our 300th anniversary.

Wow! I am working on putting together a slide show of photos that have been taken over the last 100 years of events that occurred at the church. These could be weddings, baptisms, Christmas pageants, youth fellowship meetings, Sunday school, and more. Recent photos are easy because they are already digital. I would love any digital photos you have. I’m particularly looking for older photos, ones that had to be developed and are in print form. I have the ability to scan photos and so, If you have some, and are willing to temporarily part with them. I will scan them and return them to you as quickly as possible. Information about the photos, such as when it was taken and who is in the photo would be huge. If you can share photos for the slide show, please email me at chrisschuft@gmavt.net

Thanks
Chris Schuft

Name Tags

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

Women's FELLOWSHIP

Tuesday, April 9th Meeting



Our guess speaker for the evening was Anita Merando and her topic was "Everybody Writes". She talked about her experience as a

child with a literacy disability "who became a teacher who views learning as a transformational process. Everybody writes—we just have to widen the definitions to include writing as thinking, composing, conversing, and any other process that inspires and brings clarity to generating ideas". We then all spent some time writing and then shared what we had written.

Her presentation was so inspiring, that we have started a Writing Group on Wednesday afternoon! Here's what they had to say after their first meeting. "The first meeting of our writing group was a success! We spent some time getting to know each other and then did about forty minutes of writing on a topic of interest to us individually. We are excited to have more women join us!"

We meet weekly in the Lester Room at 1:30. Hope to see you there!"

Tuesday, May 14th Annual Meeting

6:00-7:30 p.m.

Note meeting time change to

6:00pm!



As is our tradition, the meeting will be a salad and dessert supper. Jill Thorne is planning to do

what she is calling "an audience participation program called: **"Women's Fellowship Traditions"**-- although the main point would need to be the Strawberry Supper, we could identify other traditions, as well as new directions, that are meaningful to us--and presumably (or not?) worth retaining. "

Please plan to attend and help us make some very important planning decisions for our future.

We also hope to have many, if not all of our Officers and Committee Chairs in place for the 2024-25 year.

Save the Date for the Women's Fellowship Bake Sale Saturday May 18th!



We are planning on holding a bake sale during the **Ledyard Garden Club's Annual Plant Sale Saturday, May 18th**. Prior to COVID, this was a very popular event and we are looking forward to reviving it. Jeanne Allyn and Jane Bliven will be co-chairing this event and will need lots of food to sell! Details are still

being finalized, so watch for updates.

Grandma's Attic Will Take Place on Saturday, July 13th



Set up:
from 7:00-
10:00 a.m.

Shopping: 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Clean up: at 3:00 P.M.

We are now collecting "treasures" for the sale. Items can be dropped off at the Carriage House during the regular office hours, Tuesday, Wednesday, & Friday from 8:30 a.m. —2:30pm. Please make sure to clearly label items so we know they are for Grandma's Attic.

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

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

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. Meredith Schuft, Chair
Email: chrisandmeri@gmavt.net

**OUR ANNUAL
STRAWBERRY SUPPER
NEEDS YOU!**



Plans are in the works for our annual **Strawberry Supper on Tuesday, June 18th**. Now it's time for you to show your support for this event. The sign-up sheet which is on the table in fellowship hall has too many blank spaces for us to be able to pull this event off without more people stepping up to take on a task. Please look over the sheet and consider adding your name to one of the open slots. We still need a manager who can be at the church much of the day for the few days prior to the

supper to help oversee and help make everything happen. We also need a few more team leaders and worker bees. Jill Thorne has stepped into the position of organizer and has created a detailed document which has a description of the tasks along with a timeline for each of the team leader's positions, making everyone's job a whole lot easier. Although the supper falls under the umbrella of women's fellowship, it truly is an all-church event.



As you may be aware, the Strawberry Supper is one of the two large profit-making events which allows women's fellowship to

continue to donate \$5,000 to the church budget each year. \$2,000 is earmarked for our donation to the UCC's Our Churches Wider Missions and the other \$3,000 goes into the general budget.



The Strawberry Supper is a time-honored event which both our church members and the wider community look forward to each year. We do not want to have to cancel it due to the lack of volunteers. Let's all work together to keep this event going strong!

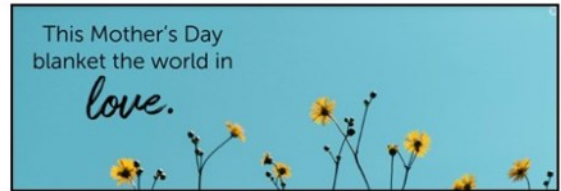
Thank you and take care,
Meredith Schuft and Jill Thorne



Church World Services Blankets — 2024

From now through Sunday May 12th (Mother's Day) we are again inviting you to make a \$10.00 donation towards a blanket(s) in honor of or in memory of someone. To do so, simply fill in the information below and make a check out to **Ledyard Congregational Church with CWS Blanket**

Fund on the memo line. Then mail both to Ellen Seeman, 8 Darrows Ridge Rd., East Lyme, CT 06333 or leave it in the mission's mailbox outside the church offices. **Please print clearly!** Order forms are also available on the table in Fellowship Hall.



Your Name(s): _____ Phone #: _____

Name(s) to be remembered:

Names to be honored:

Numbers of Blankets ordered: ____ Check enclosed for \$_____ (made payable to **Ledyard Congregational Church**)



Church Chatter

May 2024

*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