

# Church Chatter May 2025

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

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## ***A Message From Pastor Pat***

### **Our Last Peace and Reconciliation Session**

On May 10<sup>th</sup> we will complete the formal Peace and Reconciliation Process. The session is scheduled from 9:30-2:30. A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board between the offices. The purpose of this meeting is to problem solve. I will choose 5-6 areas that are issues for the congregation to deal with going forward. Then, each participant will have the opportunity to share their ideas about how to problem solve the identified areas. From the ideas generated, an action plan will be

In the healing session on April 12<sup>th</sup>, we had an opportunity to clear the air. About forty-five people gathered to share their feelings about past events, to air their grievances and make a commitment to moving forward. This doesn't mean that all the feelings associated with these events are magically over. We will need to be patient with one another as healing is ongoing. I hope you will be gentle with yourselves and with each other. Moving forward with compassion, understanding and

*Continued on page 2*

Continued from page 1

acceptance is the work going forward.

We have made great strides as a congregation and I am grateful to all who have participated in the Peace and Reconciliation process. It is a

cornerstone of moving forward as a healthier, more resilient congregation. Thank you for your hard work and participation.

Faithfully, Pastor Pat

### From the Pastor's Desk

#### Office Hours

Monday, Wednesdays & Thursday  
9:30 a.m. — 1:00 p.m.

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

Email: pliberty57@gmail.com  
Cell: (401) 499-7752



### Ledyard Congregational 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!

*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
Bill & Cari Barnes	5/28



*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.
- The family of Ruth Celotto
- Bill Dawson
- Fred
- Joan Jirsa
- Cindy M.
- Johanna Nolan
- The Family of Jim Seaton
- Jim Sorensen
- Roy Warren
- Marge Wilson


*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.*



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

Troy Hedman	Kyle Murphy
Tye Frazer	Oliver Murphy



**LCC WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP**  
**WRITING GROUP**


Bring your favorite writing tools — journals, tablet, laptop, etc. We will discuss writing ideas, have time to write, and have time the share ideas.

Every Monday 9:30-11:00 a.m.

In the Holdridge Library @ Ledyard Congregational Church  
722 Colonel Ledyard Hwy, Ledyard, CT

**ALL ARE WELCOME**

No matter race, creed, gender, or identity, we welcome you to enjoy a free space to created and share!



**JUNE** Chatter Deadline is **THURSDAY, MAY 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.

Thank You, Meredith Schuft

## May Scripture Readings

### Sunday May 4

#### Third Sunday of Easter

Acts 9:1-6, (7-20) • Psalm 30 • Revelation 5:11-14 • John 21:1-19

### Sunday May 11

#### Fourth Sunday of Easter

Acts 9:36-43 • Psalm 23 • Revelation 7:9-17 • John 10:22-30

### Sunday May 18

#### Fifth Sunday of Easter

Acts 11:1-18 • Psalm 148 • Revelation 21:1-6 • John 13:31-35

### Sunday May 25

#### Sixth Sunday of Easter

Acts 16:9-15 • Psalm 67 • Revelation 21:10, 22-22:5 • John 14:23-29 or John 5:1-9

### So, Tell me Again How I log into Zoom to Join the Sunday Service?

Every week, in the email blast, below the first slide that invites you to "Join us for Worship" is a button that says "Click here for zoom meeting information and dial in numbers". If you choose to join us online, click here and follow the instructions. It's easy.

If you have tried this in the recent past and it hasn't worked, you are not crazy. We discovered that the link to zoom hasn't been working consistently and we want you to know that it's fixed. If you experience any problems with this link, please let us know by emailing the church office.

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

### All Visitors

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



Have a key?

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

Thank you

**Press Here to summon Bridney**



### 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)).



A message from

# MISSIONS



## Tote for Linda Davis Food Pantry Donations

For May, the Pantry is asking for Oatmeal in

canisters, Mandarin Oranges (in cans), and Stewed Tomatoes. As you grocery shop each week, add these items for the pantry to your list. Then bring in your items on Sundays and place them under the table in the front of the sanctuary. You can also drop off items in the tote under the walkway to the church offices.

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

## May Community Supper

Thursday May 15th

5:30 p.m.

in Fellowship Hall

Our May theme is **All Things Chicken**. Come and see what our amazing cooks come up with!



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

adding your name wherever you can. Then come and join us for a fun evening!

## May Red Cross Blood Drive Wednesday May 14th 11:00am-4:00pm



The need for blood is constant and your contribution is important for a healthy and reliable blood supply. You will feel good knowing you've helped change a life.

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 11. 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](mailto: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.



Kathy Fletcher's trunk overflowing with Easter baskets!

## Easter Baskets for Safe Futures

Thank you to everyone who helped us fill 36 Easter Baskets for the children living in Safe Futures housing. Joe Damm was able to provide all the remaining baskets to insure all 66 children received a basket! This was the first time nine of these children had ever received an Easter basket. Thank you for helping make a lot of kids smile!

## Church World Services

Blanket Sunday

Celebrating All Women

Mother's Day Sunday, May 12th



"Each spring, churches across the country celebrate the women who've shaped our lives by hosting a CWS Blankets offering. It's a beautiful way to honor mothers, grandmothers and everyone who nurtures love—by sharing warmth and hope with neighbors in need" as stated on their website.

We have been participating in Blanket Sunday for several years and once again are inviting you to purchase a blanket(s) at \$10.00 each in memory of or in honor of someone. As in the past, we will have blanket gift cards, which you can take to send an acknowledgment of your gift.

When you support the **CWS Blankets program**, you offer more than just warmth—you provide hope and love to those facing challenging times. **27,275 CWS Blankets** were shared with people in need in 2024, thanks to generous donors like you.

There is an order form on page 15 and also on the table in Fellowship Hall along with envelopes and thank you notes.

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 Board of Missions members, Vicky DiFilippo, Kathy Fletcher, Pastor Pat, Sara Holdridge, Anita Merando, Dee Potter, Meredith Schuft, Ellen Seeman, & Jill Thorne.

## From the Historian's Desk



### May 1725 – 300 years ago

The residents of the northern part of Groton were getting frustrated. The town and church in Groton had no interest in letting them go, but it was a real hardship getting to Sunday services. Maybe it had been easier, seasonally at least, for those along the river, like the Allyns, to cross the water to New London than it was to go cross country to the meetinghouse in Groton. They were determined to do something about it.

There must have been meetings and discussions, although we have no records of just what was said. We have no records from our church at all from that period, nor even an ecclesiastical society. However, from colonial records at the Connecticut State Archives we get a peek into what was going on. The General Court (or General Assembly) met twice a year at the time, once in May and once in October, for a few days each. Their record volumes and collected papers fill in some of the story.

Penning a more dramatic wording to accomplish their goals, Captain Morgan and his neighbors drew up a

new petition, this time to the General Assembly, citing the impossibility of attending regularly, “so that our families are in Danger of being Left destitute of the means of Grace and salvation to there utter ruin.” Having asked the town for assistance in this matter, and being rejected, “putt us into Disquiet and sorrow.” They requested that the Assembly “Relive us and Grant us the Liberty and prevelidges of being a Distinct Society by our selves.”

The town of Groton got wind of this petition and wrote to the Assembly, stating that they thought they had come to an agreement between the north and the south to survey for the center of the entire town, and build a new meetinghouse there. Apparently not everyone saw it the same. The north's petition was delivered to the assembly, apparently by Capt. John Morgan, but the town wrote, “We their for pray that their petesion may not be herd.”

In spite of Groton's protest, the General Assembly took the request seriously, and assigned a committee of Capt. Timothy Peirce, Capt. Thomas Noyes and Mr. Joseph Bacchus to “make diligent inquiry into the circumstances of said parish,” set some proposed boundaries, and report back at the October session.

Carol Ganz, LCC Church Historian

## Faith Formation and Sunday School



In April, children in Sunday School have been both thoughtful and active. Exploring the meaning of Lent as a time to renew our relationship to God in preparation for Easter, the children read the Bible, and engaged in big themes. What does God's love mean in our lives? How do we experience it? The children tell us that we experience and share God's love through friendship, by sharing what we have with others, by being kind, and by knowing that we are loved and that God will always love us. They celebrated Easter Sunday with an Easter Egg Hunt. Eggs contained Bible verses, and the children also received goodie bags.

Spring is the perfect season to renew and expand our relationship

with God. Children planted the flower seeds saved from last year's harvest, and chose other seeds to plant in trays. Through this hands-on activity, children experience both the miracle and science of nature as our seeds sprout and grow. It's an exciting time! *Inch by inch, row by row, God bless these seeds we sow, and warm them from below 'til the rain comes tumbling down. (David Mallett)*

In May, the children will spend time outdoors exploring the wonders of nature. They will plant their seedlings in raised beds, and they will learn how to care for plants in a garden. Please dress appropriately.

We will celebrate Bible Sunday on May 11 during the Sunday Service. Children will receive a bible and remain with the congregation as we reflect on the importance of The Word in our daily lives.

## Behind the Scenes in Sunday School

The Faith Formation Team meets monthly and provides guidance for the weekly planning that goes into Sunday School. The content of the Sunday School lessons follows an overarching theme, and connects to the Sunday scripture readings. The goal is to help children explore their personal relationship to God. The format may include:

- A Circle Gathering: introductions, sharing information, prayer and song
- Reading: a trade book or bible reading
- Activity: appropriate to the day's topic
- Closing: saying goodbye

Faith Formation meets the second Wednesday of every month at noon. Our next meeting is May 14th and all are welcome.

## Save the Dates

**May 4:** Communion Sunday, children will receive Communion with the congregation.

**May 11:** Bible Sunday, children will stay with the congregation.

**May 25:** Memorial Day Parade 1:00 p.m., please join us at the parade.

## OUR Missions Statement

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

This was adopted at the 2010 Annual Meeting.

## Prayer Vigil

Join us for a prayer vigil for our nation on Thursday, May 22<sup>th</sup> from 5:30-6:30 p.m. The sanctuary will be open for individual, unguided prayer as we unite in prayer for the unity and healing of our nation.



### Whole Lives Taking Flight: You Know, Sex

Cory Silverberg author of *You Know, Sex, What Makes A Baby*, and *Sex Is A Funny Word*.



In his books, Cory Silverberg is not concerned with giving answers, but rather helping people to feel comfortable having curiosity about their sexuality and getting comfortable talking about their lived experiences. Acknowledging that we all have God-given bodies, these books are written from the premise that we already have a lot of information about our bodies. After all, we all live in our bodies.

These books can be resources for families, regardless of sexual orientation or identity. Children are interested in learning about where babies come from, what is happening during puberty, how to navigate friendships and feelings, and how to address the issues that arise as they live in their bodies in the real world. You may find that these books provide information framed in ways that support you to demystify sexuality in affirming ways.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wgffsmTCCDw>



Church World Services  
Blanket Sunday will be  
Celebrated on Sunday,  
May 11th, Mother's Day

Let's Celebrate All Women as  
We Blanket the World in Love!

From now through Sunday, May  
11<sup>th</sup> (Mother's Day) we are  
inviting you to make a \$10.00  
donation towards each blanket  
you wish to purchase in honor of  
or in memory of someone. Order  
forms are available in the May  
Chatter and on the table in  
Fellowship Hall.

"When disasters strike, when  
temperatures drop, when  
sidewalks become home...you  
make sure someone is there  
offering warmth".

Gift cards are also available,  
which you can take to send an  
acknowledgment of your gift.

### Bible Sunday May 11<sup>th</sup> is Bible Sunday



Our Church School children will  
receive their bibles as a gift from the  
church. If **YOU** don't not have a bible  
and would like one, please speak to  
Pastor Pat

### FIRE DRILL

Yes, we are having a fire drill on  
**May 18<sup>th</sup>** after the service is over.  
Your Safety Team is working hard  
to see that we are able to  
evacuate the building in a timely  
fashion in the event of a fire.



## Easter flowers

### Easter Flowers Given In Memory Of:

Our Parents & Siblings

Jane & Wee Smith

Wesley & Carol Rethwill, Herb Burger

Earl, Doris, & Robert Lamb, Henry Singer,  
Tim Pocock

Loved Ones

Loved Ones

Margaret H. & Burriss G. Wilson

Lena Marie & Willard Dambach

Alison & Ed Slade, Betty & Howard Schuft  
Skip & Sue Morrison, Kenny Slade

David Lees

Joe & Maralouise Stribling, Fred & Berenice Allyn

Janet Barnett & Deb Betz

Mildred J. Stanton, Evelyn & Ralph Golding,  
Kathryn A. Potter, Robert H. Potter  
Mark E. Stanton

### Given By:

Sara & Dave Holdridge

Beth Smith

Carrie & Ken Burger

Marion Singer, Lori Pocock,  
Pat & Jeff Yuhas

The Sorensen Family

Donna & John Clark

Margaret Wilson

The Dambach Family

Meredith & Chris Schuft

Jody Lees

Jeanne Allyn

Ellen Seeman

Dee & Rich Potter

### Easter Flowers Given in Honor Of:

Mary Burger

### Given By:

Carrie & Ken Burger



### Save the Date!

### Ledyard's Memorial Day Parade Sunday, May 25th



Join us in walking in the parade and help us spread the word about our upcoming celebration of our 300th anniversary! Period costumes welcome. Watch for more exciting events happening throughout 2025-2026 including the Bill Dinner which will be held on Saturday, September 20, 2025. It will be loosely based on the famous Bill Dinners which were held for decades and includes a chowder dinner!

## Safe Church Committee

The Safe Church Committee was formed in January. Committee members are: Rob Burns, Sue Burns, Dolly Hayes, Rev Pat Liberty, and Beth Smith.

The committee has reviewed safety checklists for First Aid, Buildings and Grounds, Fire Protection and Prevention, Public Areas, and the Kitchen. Recommendations for areas identified as needing attention have been or are being addressed, e.g., clearing items out the boiler room, scheduling a kitchen deep clean for June, as well as creating and posting evacuation exit maps in strategic locations.

A fire drill is scheduled for Sunday, May 18, following the church service. The congregation will be informed a few weeks ahead with specific information about the drill and the evacuation procedures. Questions and concerns about the fire drill or any other aspects of safety can be expressed to any of the committee members.

The next Safe Church Committee meeting will be on Thursday, May 8th at 5:00 p.m. in the Holdridge Library.



## Pastor Pat's Vacation

Pastor Pat will be on vacation from Saturday, May 17 through Sunday June 15. The Rev. Dr. Bruce Greer will be our guest preacher during this time. Pastor Greer is a seasoned and experienced pastor and preacher. Pastor Greer is an American Baptist pastor with standing in the United Church of Christ. He has served settled pastorates in Plymouth and Sandwich, MA as well as Warwick, RI. Pastor Greer has extensive experience as a Fire Department Chaplain and Critical Incident Stress Management First Responder.

Pastor Greer is now an intentional interim pastor and has served congregations in both the American Baptist Churches of the USA and the United Church of Christ. After serving the largest ABC church as Interim Senior Pastor in Denver, Colorado, Bruce returned to the East Coast and settled in Boston where he served as Mission Director of Seafarer's Friend, a Boston Harbor maritime ministry founded by Congregationalists in 1827.

Bruce and his wife Dale now reside in Mystic. They have three children and four grandchildren. Please show him a Ledyard Congregational Church welcome!

## LCC Volunteers Come in All Ages

As Missions continue to collect plastic caps for a rainbow bench, the children in Sunday School are diving in to help identify and sort the caps. In our last sorting party the children shared their knowledge about the importance of recycling plastics. Here are some of the facts and concerns that they shared as they sorted:

- People use way too much plastic!
- Plastic gets into our water and food and isn't good for people and fish.
- There are a lot of water bottle caps, but you can drink water in reusable water bottles instead.
- Some plastic doesn't get recycled and people litter. Litter makes things look bad.
- Many of the caps needed to be set aside for washing. It's important



Photo taken by Jack

to bring in clean caps.

It takes a lot of people working together to make this project successful.

The children took this project seriously, and had a fun time working together.

Please keep bringing in the caps, as we have a long way to go to collect 200 lbs.



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.



### 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.



**MAY  
PANCAKE BREAKFAST**

Is All About  
**MUSIC!**

**Where:** Ledyard Congregational Church Fellowship Hall  
722 Col. Ledyard Hwy., Ledyard CT

**When:** Saturday May 3, 7:30–10:00 a. m.

**Why:** To support the church's Music Ministry

**How:** Come and eat breakfast . . .  
. . . and please consider making a donation

**What:** **FREE** breakfast includes scrambled eggs, sausages,  
pancakes, beverages, and creamed chipped beef on toast

**What Else:** Music! Members and supporters of the Music Ministry  
will provide entertainment for your dining pleasure:  
vocal, and instrumental, both sacred and secular.

**COME AND JOIN US!**

a three-month waiting list. Their program has funding through June 30th and is hopeful that funding will be available for the upcoming year.

**Tuesday May 13th Meeting**  
**6:00-7:30 p.m. Note Time Change!**

**Social Hall**

Our Tuesday meeting is our year-end meeting where we gather earlier for a light supper of salads and desserts! As we do not have a full slate of officers or committee chairs for 2025-26, let's spend the evening brainstorming possible programs and activates. Then we will regroup at our summer meeting. We can call it our "chat and plan" meeting!

**SAVE THE DATE!**

**May Bake Sale**



We are making plans to hold a bake sale during the Ledyard Garden Club's Annual Plant Sale on **Saturday, May 17th**. Despite a rainy day last year, made a profit of \$1,076.25! More details to follow in the weekly blast.

## Women's FELLOWSHIP

**April Meeting**

**Tuesday, April 8th**

At our April meeting, we welcomed Denetra G. McBride, Program Director 3, for Coley, Hallie, and Hogan House and

Alethea Johnson-Cole Hallie House Program Manager for Women's Recovery Support Programs through the Family and Child Services at The Connections. They walked us through the programs they provide. There are currently 22 women in the program and have

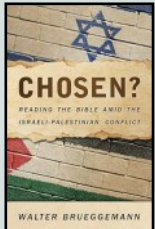
Women's Fellowship is open to anyone who would like to join us. You do not need to be a member or even a regular attendee of Ledyard Congregational Church. Feel free to bring a friend!

Meredith Schuft, Chair  
Email: [chrisandmeri@gmavt.net](mailto:chrisandmeri@gmavt.net)



## WEDNESDAY NIGHT BOOK STUDY GROUP

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





The Book Study Group continues to meet on Wednesday nights. We are now reading **CHOSEN? READING THE BIBLE AMID THE ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN CONFLICT** by Walter Brueggemann on Wednesday the 26th. "In *Chosen?*, Walter Brueggemann explores the situation in modern-day Israel that raises questions for many Christians who are easily confused when reading biblical accounts of God's saving actions with the Israelites. Are modern Israeli citizens the descendants of the Israelites in the Bible whom God called chosen? Was the promise of land to Moses permanent and irrevocable? What about others living in the promised land? How should we read the Bible in light of the modern situation? Who are the Zionists, and what do they say?"

All are welcome to join in our lively, thought-provoking, and just fun discussions.

Please enter through the atrium door by the church offices.

Hope to see you there!




## Blood Drive

### Ledyard Congregational Church


Fellowship Hall  
722 Colonel Ledyard Highway, Ledyard

**Wednesday, May 7, 2025**  
**11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.**

Please call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit [RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org) and enter: LedyardCong to schedule an appointment.



Come give May 1 to 18 for \$20 e gift card & chance to win USA trip of choice! See [rcblood.org/may](http://rcblood.org/may)



1-800-RED CROSS | [RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org) | Download the Blood Donor App

© 2023 The American National Red Cross | 418001-2 CW

## BIBLE STUDY CONTINUES ON WEDNESDAY MORNING



10:30—11:30 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!

*Thank you to both Alicia Rohrer and Yamila Garcia for graciously filling in as Substitute Admin Coordinators over the last three months. Also thank to all who stepped in to help print the Sunday bulletins. And to Carrie Burger who took on the task of transferring the bulletin into a Word document, a task that has been in the queue for a year and then for producing it!*



**Please Join us in  
Welcoming  
Bridney Casillas  
As Our New  
Administrative  
Coordinator**



Bridney Casillas is the new Administrative Coordinator at the Ledyard Congregational Church. She is a lifelong resident of Southeastern Connecticut and currently resides in New London. Inspired by the cartoons and movies of her childhood and the local places she loves to explore, Bridney brings a sense of joy and storytelling to every project. Her skills include proficiency in Adobe Creative Suite, Canva, logo design, and web design.

Holding an associate's degree in graphic design from Three Rivers Community College, Bridney is currently pursuing her bachelor's degree in marketing at Southern New Hampshire University. This combination of creative and

business knowledge allows her to offer both design expertise and a deeper understanding of how to connect with audiences.

When she's not working on design projects, you can find Bridney enjoying outdoor music festivals, writing poems, visiting art galleries, or finding new ways to grow creatively. She also loves watching sunsets at the beach and can't control herself around pizza and garlic bread. Bridney believes that great design has the power to connect and inspire others. She looks forward to creating fun designs and is excited to collaborate with her colleagues on projects at the Ledyard Congregational Church.

Be sure to stop by and say hello! AND please, if you are using your key to enter the building during office hours, ring the bell and announce that you are letting yourself in!

**Help Us Honor the  
Class of 2025**

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](mailto:chrisandmeri@gmavt.net) and I'll be sure to honor them all in the June issue of the Chatter. ~Meredith



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



**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, May 3rd**

The featured organization will be LCC Music.

**Saturday, June 7th**

The featured organization Ledyard Social Services Camp Scholarship Program.

**ALL ARE WELCOME!**

**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](mailto:fraugurusan@yahoo.com)).

## Storm Windows

The Trustees Property Committee is in the process of repainting the exterior of the church sanctuary this coming spring. It has been noted that the storm windows are in poor condition in general, and many are broken and need replacement. The best opportunity to do this is while the painter has an aerial lift present on site. The property committee is starting a fund drive for the congregation to contribute towards the purchase of a new storm window (or windows). There are 24 windows in need of replacement. You can purchase a whole window or donate toward a portion of one. Each window will cost approximately \$365.00, and to replace all the storm windows, the total cost will be \$8,750.

For donating or for more information, please contact Brian Johnson, Board of Trustees Property Committee. [bx2john@comcast.net](mailto:bx2john@comcast.net) (860) 235-1890.

## May Community Supper



### All Things Chicken!

Thursday, May 15, 2025



Come sample a variety of chicken dishes from casseroles to salads to wings! As always there will be vegetarian options, breads, more salads, plus desserts!

Ledyard Congregational Church  
Fellowship Hall  
on the third Thursday of every month.



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!



## United Church of Christ Climate Hope Art Contest

For the third straight year, the UCC conducted a **Climate Hope Art Contest**. The theme this year was "Planting Seeds of Hope." UCC children and youth were invited to draw, paint, or color works of art that bring this theme to life.

Frankie and Walter entered the contest and here are their projects!



Frankie's Project—Age 5



Walter's Project—Age 3  
Happy seeds need sun love

## Ledyard Congregational Church Social Justice Team

During our March meeting, the Social Justice team adopted Micah 6:8 as our guiding verse, *"He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?"*

The LCC Peace and Justice Team asks you to join us in prayer during the month of May.

### **Asian American and Native**

### **Hawaiian / Pacific Islander Heritage Month**

We offer prayers of gratitude for Asian Americans and Native Hawaiian / Pacific Islanders, a diverse population of people who source from many nations and reach into every aspect of our culture and society. May we grow in our appreciation of all that they have to offer and take this opportunity to learn more about their contributions to our nation. May they feel the appreciation of a grateful society.

### **Jewish American Heritage Month**

As the Jewish tradition teaches the importance of forgiveness and reconciliation, we pray that we may learn from this practice and appreciate the wonderful contributions of Jewish Americans to our lives. During this time when antisemitism is on the rise, we pray

for protection as we reflect on ways that we can show our support to our Jewish friends and family.

### **Mental Health Awareness Month**

We ask you to pray for the wellbeing of people all over the world who suffer from a variety of mental health concerns. As government funding for community clinics is dwindling, and statistics inform us that many forms of mental illness are on the rise, we pray for safety, security, and care for our neighbors who are suffering. May they find community, and the comfort and care they need and deserve. May they know that they are not alone.

### **Older Americans Month**

At this time when many older Americans are faced with harsh economic realities, may we take time to reach out to those who may feel isolated, advocate for those who are in need of support, and appreciate the lifetime of contributions that elders have given their communities. May they feel the love and support that they so rightfully deserve.

### **April Community Event**

During Lent, we were asked to reflect on the path that Jesus followed. Jesus showed us through his example that when we are humble, we stand for and with people in their joy, grief, success, and suffering. Jesus challenged us to consider how we use our resources as he invited all, regardless of our

ability to contribute, to join the feast.

When the Social Justice Team reflected on our own roles in the lives of our neighbors, both nearby and throughout the world, we felt called to stand with and for those who are hurting at this time of economic and civil uncertainty. For us, this is not a political action, but rather a chance to be of support and call attention to those whose circumstances may be different from our own. With this in mind, several members of the Social Justice Team attended the Hands Off Rally in New London. This was our response to concerns about the defunding of programs affecting veterans, equity, affordable housing, clinics, medical research, social security, national parks, NOAA, education, diversity, and threats to LGBTQ rights. It also occurred days after blanket tariffs affected the retirement savings and many Americans. Why did we go? Informed by questions Reverend Pat posed in a recent sermon, we went to deepen our understanding of the cares and concerns that are present in our own backyard. Who are our neighbors who are in danger of

### **Social Justice Team Monthly Meeting**

We meet on the third Thursday of each month. Join us April 17th at 4:40 p.m. in the Holdridge Library.







## Looking for Greeters

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

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

## Team Ledyard's Well!



We just received an email with pictures from Vicky DiFilippo with great news that the well project has been completed!

This has all been made possible due to the dream of Gabriela to help build wells for water in Southern Sudan. This will make it possible for girls to attend school. Our hearts are filled with gratitude for this remarkable and amazing young woman! More details about this incredible project are coming soon!



## Church World Services Blankets — 2025

From now through Sunday May 11<sup>th</sup> (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 2025



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

## Church Office Hours

**Monday through Thursday**

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

Phone: 860-464-9926

Email:

[ledyard.cong.church@gmail.com](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

## May 2025



Time Dated Material  
Return Service Requested