



Church Chatter

November

2025

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

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A Note From Stewardship



Our fall Stewardship campaign is here, and we are asking you for your support in 2026. Our theme this year

is our new mission statement recently written as part of our peace and reconciliation process earlier this year.

Our Mission Statement: We are followers of Jesus, united in Spirit and inspired by God's grace to bring justice and love to all.

Our mission is grounded in scripture. The ideas of justice and love are foundational themes threaded through both the old and the New Testament and is the fabric and basis of Jesus's message to us. As Christian, we are required to do what we can to fulfill this mission in both our personal lives and in conduct and administration of our church. Over the last few weeks, we have been exploring what it means to fulfill our mission and also think about ways that we could fulfill this mission. Your responses have shown that we are engaged in our mission in many ways including being welcoming, community outreach, mission projects, and more.

In order for us to continue do this

Continued on page 2

Continued from page 1

work, we need your support. When you pledge your support for our church, you are declaring your intention to work for justice and to show your love for our friends, community and the world. Making a pledge is an overt act that declares your commitment to the life and mission of our church. Please make a pledge of support to our church for 2026.

Soon, you should be receiving a Stewardship letter and pledge card in the mail in. Please give the matter your prayerful attention.



Our Community Prayer Box

Everyone is welcome to leave your prayer requests in our

Community Prayer Requests box, located in the driveway of our parking lot across and down a bit from Valentino's restaurant. Prayers may include prayers of celebration, of concern & healing and/or prayers of comfort. Prayer requests are collected weekly and lifted up in prayer at our Sunday morning worship service and also included in our prayer chain ministry.

You can also email your prayers to prayerslcc@gmail.com.

Let's use faith to united us!

Please Keep the Following People and Families in Your Prayers

Thank you for keeping these people in your prayers this month. It is our intent to continue to review and update the list as the information becomes available. That is where we need your help. If you know of someone who would like to be on the list, or be removed, please contact the church office (860) 464-9926 or Jeanne Allyn (860) 464-9316. Please include the name of the person to be added/deleted as well as your contact information.

Thank you!

- Doug C.
- Bill Dawson
- Fred
- Joan Jirsa
- Cindy M.
- Johanna Nolan
- Jim Sorensen
- Roy Warren
- Marge Wilson

From the Pastor's Desk

Office Hours

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



November Birthdays

Ben Hansen	11/1
Becky Rust	11/3
Gabriela DiFillippo	11/10
Alanna Johnson	11/15
Brian Celotto	11/16
Aden Hewes	11/16
Elizabeth Austin	11/23
Mason Barnett	11/23
Connie Busch	11/23
Troy Hedman	11/27



November Anniversaries

Stan & Ginny Hungerford	11/14
David & DeeDee O'Donnell	11/14



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

Troy Hedman	Kyle Murphy
Tye Frazer	Oliver Murphy



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.

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



November Scripture Readings

Sunday November 2

Twenty-first After Pentecost

Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4 Psalm 119:137-144 • Isaiah 1:10-18 Psalm 32:1-7 • 2 Thessalonians 1:1-4, 11-12 • Luke 19:1-10

Sunday November 9

Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost

Haggai 2:1-2:9 Psalm 145:1-5, 17-21 or Psalm 98 • Job 19:23-27a Psalm 17:1-9 • 2 Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-17 • Luke 20:27-38

Sunday November 16

Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 65:17-25 Isaiah 12 • Malachi 4:1-2a Psalm 98 • 2 Thessalonians 3:6-13 • Luke 21:5-19

Sunday November 23

Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Jeremiah 23:1-6 Luke 1:68-79 • Jeremiah 23:1-6 Psalm 46 • Colossians 1:11-20 • Luke 23:33-43

Sunday November 30

First Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 2:1-5 • Psalm 122 • Romans 13:11-14 • Matthew 24:36-44

Hanging of the Greens

As has been our tradition, we will be **Hanging the Greens**. Planning is still in the works. Updates will appear in the weekly E-blast, so please keep a look out and plan to participate and help make our church building festive for the holiday season!

*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.*

A message from

MISSIONS

Linda Davis Food Pantry

Donations



The Food Pantry has no specific requests for

November, but recently they commented that they were especially low on the canned peaches and pineapple, jelly, and corned beef hash. So, as you grocery shop each week, add an item or two 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 or in the box inside the Atrium.

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

November Community Supper

Thursday November 20th

5:30 p.m. in

Fellowship Hall



Our November theme is **Harvest Foods!** Come and see what our

amazing cooks come up with. There will be lots of great foods to choose from!

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!

The Neighbors in Need (NIN)

Special UCC Missions Offering

Thank you for all your donations for the UCC NIN Special Missions offering which came to \$621.00!

Your donations support ,in part, the following ministry teams: Office for Public Policy and Advocacy, Economic Justice, Environmental Justice, Racial Justice, Disabilities and Mental Health Justice, Immigration Justice, and Gender and Sexuality Ministries.

In this time of radical policies that impact so many of our citizens, there has never been a more important time to help fund the work of the UCCs Justice and Witness Ministries of the UCC.

Thank you for your support in this special missions project!



Red Cross Blood Drive

Friday, October 17th

Thank you to all the donors and all who donated baked good and volunteered that day! We had 18 donors and were able to collect 14 pints! 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. The next drive will be held on **Wednesday, December 17th.**

Gales Ferry/ Ledyard CROP Walk.

Walk, Give, Change the World.



Thank you to all our walkers and to those who made donations in support of our team. Our original goal was \$1,500. and as of October 21st we have received over \$3,000!

Your donations support the Church World Service (CWS), a faith-based organization, ability to transform communities around the globe through just and sustainable responses to hunger, poverty, displacement and disaster. Additionally, 25% of the funds raised in our Gales Ferry/ Ledyard walk are returned to our community to support local hunger fighting efforts.

Helping Our Neighbors Stay Warm

This Winter with Wool Blankets

An estimated **150 people** are currently living outdoors in southeastern Connecticut. To prepare for the cold months ahead, the **New London Homeless**

Hospitality Center (NLHHC) is partnering with St. Vincent de Paul Place (Norwich) and Project HOPE (Willimantic) to respond to what they feel is an unprecedented number of individuals living without shelter.

What they need are **Warm Wool Blankets!** Our Missions Committee will be collecting blankets during November....and even longer if necessary. Here's how you can help:

- ★ Donate a gently used **WARM** wool blanket. Please make sure the blanket is clean and free of any moths or insects.
- ★ Purchase a new wool blanket wherever you like to shop.
 - Donated or purchased blankets may be left in the box provided in Social Hall.
- ★ A donation of \$40 will allow Missions to purchase a blanket suggested by the NLHHC.
 - Checks should be written to LCC with "Wool Blanket" noted on the memo line. Envelopes for cash and check donations will be available in the church pews and can also be mailed to the church or be left in the Church Clerk's mailbox outside the offices.



Ledyard Social Services 2025 Adopt-A-Family

We are once again planning to

Music, Poetry, Instrumental backup, Acoustic, Electric, Expression, Kindness

LCC Coffee House Open Mic

Join us, all are welcome!

4th Saturday of every month

Saturday 6-9pm Nov 22

Alcohol-free Family-friendly

Positive Community Collaboration

Ledyard Congregational Church
722 Colonel Ledyard Hwy (Rt 117), Ledyard, CT

Music, Poetry, Instrumental backup, Acoustic, Electric, Expression, Kindness

participate in the town of Ledyard's Adopt-A-Family program this year. Tags with gift requests will be found hanging on the small Christmas tree in Fellowship Hall starting on Sunday, November 30th. Watch for more details in the weekly E-blast closer to the date. 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. You can contact Meredith Schuft at chrisandmeri@gmavt.net (802) 363-3808 and/or Jill Thorne at gbthorne@sbcglobal.net (860) 912-0924.

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.



FAQs On our New Keypad Lock and Alarm Systems

KEYPAD DOOR LOCKS

How do I enter the building through a new keypad lock?

- Just enter the same 4-digit PIN used with the alarm system.
- You can also enter by waving a keyring FOB or wallet size card in front of the lock. Ask Rob Burns to assign one of these to you.

Why does alarm panel still beep when I enter?

- The lock system and the alarm system are independent from one another, so you may still need to disarm the alarm system at the panel or by using the Total Connect app on your smart phone.

ALARM SYSTEM

When I enter the building, why does the alarm panel near the entry door beep at me?

- Beeping at the panel warns you the partition you entered is armed. You have 60 seconds to disarm at the alarm panel before the alarm siren is triggered.

What is a partition?

- There are 3 sections (or partitions) of the church. Each partition has a control panel associated with it, located near keypad entry doors.
 - * P1 - Office area (including Music Room)
 - * P2 - Fellowship Hall

(including Lester Room)

- * P3 - Sanctuary (including Social Hall)

When I re-arm the partition, why does the alarm panel again beep?

- Beeping now warns you the partition is armed. You have 60 seconds to exit. Opening the exit door after that will again trigger the alarm (after 60 seconds).

What's the difference between arming "away" and arming "stay"?

- Arming away activates motion sensors as well as entry/exit doors, while arming stay excludes motion sensors. Stay mode is especially useful when you plan to be in the church alone for an extended period. Any visitor through an entry door will still need to disarm the system to prevent the siren from being triggered.

Why is the siren immediately activated when I enter another partition through an interior door?

- If you enter an armed partition from an interior door, active motion sensors will immediately trigger the alarm siren.

Can I disarm multiple partitions from a single panel? YES

- You can arm or disarm multiple partitions from a single panel by entering the associated partition number(s). For example, to disarm partitions 1 and 2 simultaneously at the panel, enter your 4-digit PIN, then 1 (for OFF), then 12 (for both partitions), then press the

star key (*).

Is there an easier way?

- An easier way to arm/disarm is by using the Total Connect app on your smart phone. If you haven't added this to your phone, ask Rob Burns to help set you up.
- Also note these Panel operation shortcuts:
 - * # 2 (arm away single partition – no PIN needed)
 - * # 3 (arm stay single partition – no PIN needed)
 - * [PIN] 2-0 * (arm away ALL partition)
 - * [PIN] 1 0 * (disarm ALL partitions)

Other questions or want to test yourself with system operation?

- Talk to Rob Burns at church or call anytime @860.235.3208



DECEMBER Chatter
Deadline is **SATURDAY,**
NOVEMBER 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.

Thank You, Meredith Schuft



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, November 1st

Will be in support of the Linda Davis Food Pantry.

Saturday, December 6th

All donations will help cover the costs for our Rainbow bench and transportation.

ALL ARE WELCOME!



Announcement!

The writing group now meets on
Thursdays from 9:30-11:00 a.m.

We meet each week in the Holdridge library to discuss writing ideas, have time to write, and share ideas.

Hope to see you. All Are Welcome! .

Please enter the building through the Atrium doors
by the church offices. (Bill library side.)

Sponsored by the LCC Women's Fellowship

**Issues of the
Church
Chatter Are
Available on
the Church
Website**



Did you know you can find this issue of the Chatter plus the past two months on the church website?

Just go to:

ledyardcongregational.org and click on the Chatter drop down box.

Lights Out and Doors Shut!



Don't forget to **turn out all lights** and **close all doors**. Electricity rates have doubled in Connecticut and all interior doors must be closed when the building is not in use. This is necessary for fire safety purposes.

THANK YOU!





Red Sleigh Bazaar

Saturday,

November 22nd

9:30 a.m. -2:00 p.m.

We're hoping this year's bazaar will be as successful as in past years, and there are many ways you can help us achieve this goal!

Bake Sale/Pies

This is a very popular spot! Lots of ways to help here:

- A. Provide baked goods for the day of the bazaar: **Individual packaging of your baked good is appreciated, and please be sure to indicate if the ingredients include nuts.**
- B. Provide ingredients in advance for the prepared foods sold that day. There is a small team who will be preparing the pint containers of our usual salads and beans. There is a sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall for items we hope you can donate.
- C. Help sell on the day of bazaar. Please sign up on the large green poster in Fellowship Hall.

See Carol Ganz if you have questions.

Basket Raffle

Consider donating a basket!

Our bazaar is very unique with the wonderful selection of baskets we have each year. Please refer to Ellen Seeman's article on this and sign up in Fellowship Hall if you can help.

Baskets (or items to be incorporated into a basket) are due

to the church library by Sunday, November 9th. See Ellen Seeman with questions.

Luncheon

Lots of help needed!

Sandwiches, Soups, Dessert, Kitchen Help and Wait Staff. Please check out the sign-up sheets in

Fellowship Hall. The more food we can get donated, the more profit we will have in the end! See Dolly Hayes with questions.

Cookie Walk

Another very popular booth!

The cookies sell out every year. Kathie Saums will be sending an email soon with all the details, so keep an eye out for that. Let her know which type you can provide via email.

Ornaments/Decorations and Handcrafts

Please consider providing a craft for the center booth of our bazaar! **If you are making items, please let Andrea Barbour or Karen Rhodes know what you are creating. It's also helpful if you could price your items.** Some suggestions include Christmas tree decorations, tabletop Christmas trees, wreaths, handmade toys, bibs, baby items, table runners, table décor, aprons, potholders, doll clothes, centerpieces, greeting cards, pillowcases, goodies for the birds, etc. Coordinators: Andrea Barbour and Karen Rhodes

Jewelry

We need more! Costume or otherwise. Our customers find this booth quickly. Please consider donating any jewelry you don't wear anymore. **If you feel any item you donate should be sold in a certain price range, please note that with the jewelry. This year we will also be accepting single earrings, charms, beads, pendants and all parts of jewelry. Crafters love these for embellishments, etc.** Please leave all donations in the basket in Fellowship Hall. See Sue Burns with questions.

Heart Ornaments

Busy hands have been working hard over the past couple of months and as a result, no help is needed at this point. **Don't forget to stop by the bazaar and pick up one of these priceless keepsake treasures!**

Clean Up After the Bazaar-We are tired at the end of this day, so if you can join us for clean up around 2:30, your help will be greatly appreciated!! We will be moving items, taking down some tables and chairs, cleaning the floor, etc. As the saying goes, "many hands make light work". Please sign up on the big green poster in Fellowship Hall if you can help.

Thank you in advance for your help. This is one of our largest fundraisers and is also a day of great fellowship- connecting with each other as well

as those in the wider community. We have customers lined up looking forward to our bazaar every year. See you there!

Sue Burns
(860) 235-6637 sebcpa@gmail.com

Join us for
FAMILY CHIME TIME

We have begun to play and experiment with different ways of making music with some of our youngest church members! We're starting with singing and getting to know how Boom whackers work and will eventually learn to ring hand chimes.

When do we rehearse?

We meet most Sunday mornings directly after Sunday School for 15-20 minutes and all ages are welcome to join us in a fun exploration of creativity and expression.

Please direct any questions you might have to Bonnie Denton.
860.389.1862.



BLESSING OF THE ANIMAL

**SUNDAY,
NOVEMBER 2ND
DURING OUR
MORNING
WORSHIP SERVICE**

Everyone in the congregation and beyond is invited to bring their animals (real, stuffed, or photos) to receive a special blessing. Don't forget to bring your donations of food and other items for CHAIN!



See the Faith Formations article on page 16 for more information about this project!

Soon and Very Soon the 2025 Advent Devotional




The Stillspeaking Writers invite you to plan your Advent observances around the theme, *Soon and Very Soon* which is the title of their 2025 Advent Devotional. The theme acknowledges our need for radical hope, and encourages us to prepare for God's best. It reflects the tenor of Romans 13:11-12, "Salvation is nearer to us than when we became believers. The night is far gone; the day is near."

Copies will be available for your

taking on Sunday, November 30th, the first Sunday in Advent.

The Stillspeaking Writers' Group is composed of United Church of Christ ministers and writers who collaborate on resources for people in the church, outside the church, and not sure about the church.


The Still Speaking Writers' Group is known for its whimsical piety, providing progressive theological reflection for Christians who strive to be literate (but not literal) in their faith.



Holiday Open House
Tuesday, December 9, 2025
5:00—7:00 p.m.
at the home of Ellen & Bill Seeman
8 Darrows Ridge Road
East Lyme

*Women's Fellowship invites all adult members and friends of the Ledyard Congregational Church to a **Holiday Open House** to meet and greet each other during the holiday season. Please bring an appetizer for all to enjoy throughout the evening.*


Beverages will be provided.



RSVP by Sunday, December 7th.

By phone: 860-884-3414

Email: evseeman@gmail.com or use the QR code!





Here is a Quick Primer on Being a Congregational United Church of Christ Church

BEING CONGREGATIONAL

- The congregation is the final seat of authority on four issues:
 - * Property
 - * Leadership
 - * Doctrine
 - * Money
- The congregation owns the real estate
- The congregation chooses its own leaders
- The congregation sets its own doctrine
- The congregation handles its own financial affairs
- The church is administered by leaders elected by the congregation
- Staff are empowered with authority as delineated in job descriptions
- Christ is the ultimate head of the church
- The church covenants with the denomination to share resources and support ministries beyond the local church
- Covenants with the local association to cooperate in matters of search and call, ministerial standing and inter-church cooperation

Keep Those Caps and Lids Coming For our Rainbow Bench!



Thank you to everyone who has been collecting caps and lids. Please make sure they are all washed and

clean and watch for a sorting day coming soon.

Have questions as to whether your caps and lids are acceptable? The display in Fellowship Hall may have the answers. Still unsure? Email Ellen Seeman at evseeman@gmail.com

Thank you!

Our Whole Lives (OWL) Taking Flight

Our Whole Lives is a sexual educational program that spans Kindergarten through adult, with some special attention to older adults, the differently able, people of all gender identities, people in crisis, and the very young. While we don't currently have an Our Whole Lives curriculum available at LCC, there is an online resource that can guide us through the many questions we may have about the intersection of spirituality and sexuality. The United Church of Christ and the Unitarian Universalists have collaborated to recorded a collection of webinar videos addressing many aspects of human sexuality from infancy through adulthood. This is a valuable educational resource and the Faith Formation team encourages you to explore it. <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL6VgfHt6zEy7n42hGl14bEcQh85cbqa6>

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!



NOVEMBER
Community Supper

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2025

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

Thursday, November 20, 2025, our theme will
be **Harvest Foods!**
Come and see what our amazing cooks come
up with. There will be lots of great foods to
choose from!

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!

Attention Board and Committee Chairs

Make sure that you update the Breeze calendar on upcoming meetings and events. If you have any questions about how to make updates, please reach out to Chris Schuft (chrisschuft@gmavt.net) for answers. Thank you.

From the Historian's Desk



We have no records to tell us what the residents of North Groton were doing in November (or December) of 1725, but it seems likely they were talking about how to set up their new society, where to place the meetinghouse and where to meet until it could be built. Volunteers to host Sunday services would need to be able to accommodate a large gathering, one that would stay all day, because there were usually long morning AND afternoon services in those days.

In the meantime, cold weather was setting in and food for the winter needed to be stored. Fortunately for us, Joshua Hempstead of New London was keeping a detailed daily diary, which can give us a flavor of what must have been going on. While he was involved in more facets of town life than most, he was getting in wood, slaughtering livestock, gathering animals in from their summer pastures, and travelling to numerous locations in the process. He went by foot, by horseback and sometimes by boat across the river or along the coast to Stonington.

Hempstead's writing was often abbreviated, and he noted almost every Sunday "Mr ad. pr. al d." Mr. Adams was the pastor in New London at the time and, like other preachers, preached all day. Friday, November 5, was stormy, with rain, hail and snow, so Joshua stayed at home mending a wheel. On the eighth, he went to Norwich alone in his whaleboat, transporting some goods for people and doing some business, then stayed overnight. He came back the next day, staying overnight at Ralph Stoddard's on the way.

During the services on Sunday November 14, a collection was taken for a Canterbury woman "tht had 3 Children at a Birth & all Living." Babies were baptized, young couples "published," making public their plan to marry, and deaths were noted. During the month of November Joshua unloaded salt hay, fenced hay stacks and the cow yard, slaughtered a calf, two sows and two hogs, brought in three loads of walnut, and worked on the highway. He purchased from a Mr. Hartshorn ten pairs of [blank] gravestones of various sizes, some of which he carved in early December for specific clients. He agreed to pay in wool (100 pounds). Families in North Groton were probably engaged in similar activities. Many would spend a lot of time farming, and individuals often had some kind

of special skill they could use to barter for goods like Joshua did with his gravestones.

Much of that month was apparently fair weather, with just a few days of rain or mist, but Friday the 26th was cloudy and snowy and the next day he estimated three inches of snow. Winter was coming.

Carol Ganz, LCC Church Historian



Small Group Circle Ministry

The groups will begin in **January** and meet once a month. Participants are asked to make a six month commitment and then have the option to commit for a second six month period. The purpose of the groups is to foster fellowship and have a safe place to talk about life and faith. If you signed up, you will be assigned to a group.

We are still in need of a few folks to host the groups (about 7-9). If you are interested, please speak to Pastor Pat.



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

See you online!

Safe Church News

Emergency evacuation Maps

Emergency evacuation Maps have been placed in prominent locations around the church. These maps indicate both primary and secondary exit routes. Please take note of these maps and the two exit strategies each map offers.



November



Pancake Breakfast

For the Linda C. Davis Food Pantry

Saturday, November 1, 2025

Ledyard Congregational Church Fellowship Hall

7:30-10:00 a.m.

Come and join us for this FREE breakfast open to all.

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!

Hope to see you there!

All your donations will go to the Linda C. Davis Food Pantry and give the pantry the opportunity to purchase food and personal hygiene items which are in great demand, all to help our Ledyard and Gales Ferry neighbors!

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Name Tags

We are all encouraged to wear name tags on Sundays. If you need a name tag or have misplaced yours and would like a new one, please contact Beth Smith.

(fraugurusan@yahoo.com).

Thank you!



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).

HELPING OUR NEIGHBORS STAY WARM THIS WINTER WITH WOOL BLANKETS

An estimated **150 people** are currently living outdoors in southeastern Connecticut. To prepare for the cold months ahead, the **New London Homeless Hospitality Center (NLHHC)** is partnering with **St. Vincent de Paul Place (Norwich)** and **Project HOPE (Willimantic)** to respond to what they feel is an unprecedented number of individuals living without shelter.

What they need are **Warm Wool Blankets!** Our Missions Committee will be collecting blankets during November....and even longer if necessary. Here's how you can help:

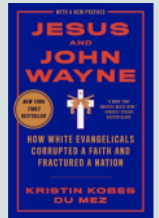
- ★ Donate a gently used wool blanket. Please make sure the blanket is clean and free of any moths or insects.
- ★ Purchase a new wool blanket wherever you like to shop.
 - Donated or purchased blankets may be left in the box provided in Social Hall.
- ★ A donation of \$40 will allow Missions to purchase a blanket suggested by the NLHHC.
 - Checks should be written to LCC with "Wool Blanket" noted on the memo line. Envelopes for cash and check donations will be available in the church pews and can also mailed to the church or be left in the Church Clerk's mailbox outside the offices.

The Missions Committee thanks you for your consideration of this project.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT BOOK STUDY GROUP

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

Our Wednesday night book group meets on Wednesday in the Holdridge Library. We are currently reading **Jesus and John Wayne** by Kristin Kobes Du Mez.



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!

Monday Morning Bible Study

**Starting Monday, November 3rd
the Wednesday Morning Bible
Study Moves to Mondays!**

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



All are welcome!

Women's FELLOWSHIP



At our October meeting, we gathered and assembled Fall Cheer baskets which were then delivered to people we thought would enjoy them and appreciate being remembered.

November will be filled with planning activities for our Red Sleigh Bazaar which will be held on Saturday, November 22nd from 9:30a.m.-2:00p.m. This is a huge and very popular event, which everyone looks forward to all year. It takes a lot of hands to make it successful from people making crafts and decorations, donating baskets for the Basket Raffle, baking cookies for the Cookie Walk and all kinds of baked goods for the bake sale to donating food for the luncheon, just to name a few. Crafts/Decorations/Ornaments Workshop are still being held on Monday from 10:00a.m.-12noon and Tuesday evenings from 6:30-8:30p.m. There are sign-up sheets in Fellowship Hall with all the areas where you can help, so please look them over and add your name!

The Bazaar is our biggest fund-raising event of the year, and it enables Women's Fellowship to continue the donation of \$2,000

towards the UCC's Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM), \$3,000 toward LCC's annual budget and make several year-end donations to non-profit organizations that specifically provide services to our most vulnerable population who rely heavily on donations.



Our Annual Holiday Open House Tuesday, December 9th 5:00-7:00p.m.

**At the home of Ellen & Bill Seeman
8 Darrows Ridge Road, East Lyme**

All adults and friends of Ledyard Congregational Church are invited to our Holiday Open House to meet and greet each other during the holiday season. Please bring an

appetizer for all to enjoy throughout the evening. Please see the poster on page 10 with information on ways to RSVP. Hope to see you there!

The Program Committee for 2025-26 is Beth Smith, Meredith Schuft, and Jill Thorne. Please contact any one of us if you have a program idea you'd like to suggest. Watch for more updates in the monthly Chatter, weekly E-blast and emails!

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



Raffle Baskets for Red Sleigh Bazaar

We will, once again, be looking for basket donations to raffle for the Red Sleigh Bazaar. Themes for baskets are endless and limited only to your imagination! "Game Night", "Baking", "Art Supplies", "Feed the Birds", "Kids' Crafts", "Everything **GREEN**" are but a few suggestions.... be creative. Baskets (or items to be incorporated into a basket) are due to the church library by **Sunday, November 9th**. I will be more than happy to wrap everything up and put a bow on it for you! Including a basket or container for the items to be wrapped in is helpful, but not

required. There will be a sign-up list on the table in Fellowship Hall so that we can organize the baskets we will have to raffle. The more baskets we have the better! If you or your group have a lot of items to donate, please consider donating 2 smaller baskets rather than one huge one. Thank you in advance for your generosity!

We will also be needing two people to manage the Raffle Basket table the day of the bazaar. Please let Sue Burns or me know if you would be interested in helping! Any questions please don't hesitate to call/text/email me.

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

Faith Formation and Sunday School



FAITH FORMATION THROUGH THE SEASONS

This year's growing season may be winding down, but we are growing together in faith. In the Chatter, we will be featuring updates from the different Sunday School groups and sharing reflections on the role of faith and God in our lives. This month we take a peek into some of the activities and lessons shared with the children in the 4-7 year old age group. Ms. Dolly and her co-teachers have enjoyed welcoming and engaging the young learners and their parents. Some themes and activities we have explored this fall include:

HOME COMING

• A Warm Homecoming

Welcome: We welcomed families and children back to the program in September and were excited to see returning faces. The focus was on making Sunday School a place where everyone could feel comfortable and accepted and share their hopes for the year. We learned about the meaning of Faith as "believing even when you cannot see God". We are

learning together and appreciate parent participation and feedback!

• Understanding Communion:



The children used a game of "Jesus Says" to learn about the importance of

following God's commands. They were taught about the Last Supper and learned that Jesus loves them. They shared bread and juice together to practice for Communion Sunday. By observing and participating in Communion in the sanctuary they learned that they are an important part of the church community.

• Nature walks/Children's

Garden: The children went on



outdoor walks around the church to find "signs of fall," including acorns and autumn leaves. They also visited and cared for the Children's garden, which

was changing with the season. They appreciated the diversity in the landscape and each other and were taught about their responsibility to be stewards of the land.

• Tree of Faith-Bulletin Board:

The children worked on a "Tree of Faith" bulletin board, creating a tree with many different leaves to represent the diverse members of their church community. God made us different, but we are called to come together



as one in faith. Everyone is invited to stop and add their own "leaf" to the tree which is in the hallway leading to Fellowship Hall.

•Receiving and Sharing Blessings:



We look forward to deepening our gratitude in the coming

month as we reflect on what we have, and thank God for our family and friends at church. Children decorated and presented a donation box in the sanctuary for C.H.A.I.N. (Citizens Helping Animals In Need) to collect food and other items for needy pets. You and your pet (or a stuffed animal friend) are cordially invited to attend the Blessing of the Animals on Sunday November 2nd! The event will be held indoors during the church service in Fellowship Hall. A representative from CHAIN will be in attendance to receive our donations.

Thank you to the parents and community members who support Faith Formation. We welcome your feedback and participation as we learn together! If you have an observation or suggestion, feel free to speak with our teachers, or with Anita Merando.

UPCOMING EVENTS/ ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Christmas Pageant is Coming!
Ashley will be helping children



rehearse and prepare for the Christmas pageant during Sunday School on 11/23 and 11/30. If any children would like to take part, she would love to include them. The pageant will be held on 12/14 with a snow date of 12/21. More details to follow!

Faith Formation Team meets the second Wednesday of each month at noon in the Holdridge Library. Our next meeting is November 12th.

All our welcome to join us!

**Pop-in Prayer, November 20th
5:00-5:30p.m. in the Sanctuary**
Prayers for Veterans, those in active military service, and their families.

For the months of November and December, the Social Justice Team and Deacons welcome you to join us in prayer the **THIRD** Thursday of each month from 5:00-5:30p.m., followed by Community Supper which begins at 5:30p.m.

When you've been feeling overwhelmed, what can you do? The Bible encourages us to come together in prayer for wisdom, for discernment, for comfort. "For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them." Matthew 18:20. Whether you pray silently or are moved to share your prayer aloud, whether you can stay for a few minutes or the whole time, you are welcome to join us in prayer.



Ledyard Congregational Church, United Church of Christ **Open and Affirming Statement and Non-Discrimination Declaration**

Open and Affirming Statement

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

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

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

Jesus teaches us to welcome all God's children. As we grow together in faith and love, we will strive to

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

Non-Discrimination Declaration

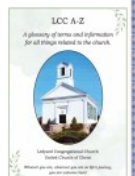
We welcome into full participation all who seek to follow Jesus, including persons of every age, gender, race, national origin, faith background, marital status and family structure, mental and physical ability, economic and social status, and educational background, to share in the life, leadership,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

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

LCC A-Z

A-Z has been updated and will continue to be updated on an as needed basis. If you have additional corrections, please send them to Beth Smith (fraugurus@yaho.com).

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



Ledyard Congregational Church Social Justice Team

Ledyard Congregational Church Social Justice Team

The Social Justice team has adopted Micah 6:8 as our guiding verse, *"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 Social Justice Team asks you to join us in prayer during the month of November.

National Family Caregivers Month

In 1994, The National Family Caregivers Association began promoting a month highlighting the commitment and challenges that caregivers face.

"Family caregivers are the backbone of our Nation, making tremendous sacrifices to be there for the people who need and cherish them most. This month, we honor their selfless love and courage, and we recommit to getting them the support they deserve. They should know their country has their backs." President Joseph R Biden

Dear lord, balancing the demands of work and caregiving are not easy or simple. In these trying times when

budgets that support the programs that provide needed assistance to caregivers and their families are depleted, the role of caregiver is more demanding than ever. Open our hearts so that we can reach out and provide needed support, and also work to bolster policies that make it possible for those caring for loved ones to know that they are not alone. Help us to lighten their burdens and show us the best ways to express our love for our neighbors by advocating for their needs.

Veterans Day

The first Veterans Day, originally called Armistice Day, was celebrated on November 11, 1919. In 1954, Congress changed the name to Veterans Day, in honor of all living Veterans. Each year we pause to give thanks to all those brave living Americans who have served in our military.

Dear Lord, may you bless and protect our Veterans. May you show us the many ways we can demonstrate our continuing gratitude for their sacrifices through direct assistance, and by advocating for programs that support the physical and emotional wellbeing of all who have dedicated a portion of their lives in service to Americans. Help us to meet their current needs with a showering of love and support. Move our leaders to fully fund the programs necessary to assure the care and respect that

they deserve.

Transgender Awareness and Remembrance Days

In 1999 Rita Hester, a Massachusetts resident, was murdered for being transgender. What began as a day of remembrance in Rita Hester's honor has expanded to Transgender Awareness Month. The purpose of the month is to celebrate the lives and achievements of transgender and nonbinary people, and to promote education about the challenges that they face, combat stereotypes, and advocate for civil rights.

Dear Lord, you have created an awesome and diverse world. May we embrace our transgender neighbors and show them the love that you have commanded us to show. May we take time to learn of their life celebrations and troubles so that we can advocate for the opportunities and care that allow them to live full and healthy lives. May they feel loved and welcome in our community and in our church.

Native American Heritage Day

In 2009, President Barack Obama established Native American Heritage day on November 28, the day after Thanksgiving. It is a day to recognize that the same land that we have built our homes and communities on was once the home to the Native Peoples. It is a day to honor their many achievements and

their rich heritage, and to understand the ongoing relationship of tribal sovereignty and the federal trust responsibilities on Native Communities.

Dear God, each of us lives on the lands once occupied by people with rich family and community traditions. These people suffered the indignation of losing their lands, and having their children taken away to government and religious schools where they were stripped of their cultures, languages, and traditions. May we acknowledge this mistreatment of your children and make amends by taking the time to learn about our native neighbors,

and about the many ways we can support them now. There is much that we can learn from your children. May we love these neighbors as ourselves.

**Social Justice Team Meeting,
November 20th @ 4:30-5:30**

The Social Justice Team Meets the third Thursday of each month in the Holdridge Library at 4:30p.m. Join us for conversation and planning on the many ways we can support our community as we promote the love and justice of Jesus. Then stay for the Community Supper.



**Looking for
Greeters for
Sunday Morning
Worship Service**

We are looking for people to help with greeting people to our Sunday morning wordship 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 or by phone: [\(860\) 608-5951](tel:(860)608-5951).

Christmas Poinsettias 2025



Would you like to help beautify the sanctuary for Christmas with a Poinsettia 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 Poinsettia on the memo line](#). Poinsettias will be purchased for you at **\$18.00** each. Mail the completed form along with your check to Ellen Seeman, 8 Darrows Ridge Rd., East Lyme, CT 06333 to be received no later than **DECEMBER 14th**. You may also turn in your order by leaving it in the Clerk's mailbox. **Please print clearly!** Order forms are also available on the table in Fellowship Hall.

Your Name(s): _____ Phone #: _____

Name(s) to be remembered:

Name(s) to be honored:

Number ordered: _____ Check enclosed for \$ _____ made payable to **Ledyard Congregational Church**



Church Chatter *November* *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

Website:

www.ledyardcongregational.org

Ledyard Congregational Church
722 Colonel Ledyard Highway
Ledyard, CT 06339

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

Along with Sunday School, and
Nursery/Childcare

November 2025



Time Dated Material
Return Service Requested