

Church Chatter October 2025



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

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A Note From Stewardship



We are a church. What makes us a church? What distinguishes us from other community organizations? What is our mission? From the Peace and Reconciliation meetings earlier this year, several people volunteered to work on developing a mission statement. Here is the church mission statement they prepared and presented to the congregation:

We are followers of Jesus, united in Spirit and inspired by God's grace to bring Justice and love to All.

As part of this fall's Stewardship campaign, we will explore our mission and try to articulate ways that we have and can fulfill this mission. We want you, the members and friends of LCC, to participate. Please think about the following questions:

- How is our church fulfilling our mission. What actions are we taking?
- How should our church fulfill this mission? What actions should we be taking?
- How can we best fulfill this mission?
- What do we hope to accomplish?

In light of these questions, think about how to answer them by completing some or all of these sentences. There is no restrictions on the number of submissions.

- We fulfill our mission by

Continued on page 2

Continued from page 1

- We should fulfill our mission by
- We could fulfill our mission by

As an example: We fulfill our mission by supporting the food pantry. Or we could fulfill our mission by finding ways to reach out to young families.

When our campaign begins later this month, we will let you know how to submit your ideas. Start thinking about them now.

We will collect your statements and publish them as bulletin inserts on the Sunday's leading up to Stewardship Sunday on November 16. No names will be included. We will also post all of the statements in Fellowship all as we collect them and you will have a chance to reflect on them as the campaign progresses.

On Stewardship Sunday, we are planning a Brunch and afterward we will get an opportunity to discuss and get your feedback all the statements you submitted.

Thanks
Your Stewardship Committee



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!



Birthdays

Jack Smith	10/2
Tori Hansen	10/5
Alexander Lawrence	10/8
Ray Hasson	10/13
Vicki Smith	10/14
Hunter Tashea	10/17
Jody Lees	10/19
Neal Ganz	10/20
Allen Gauthier	10/20
Kristie Lindgren	10/20
Sarah Hansen	10/22
Patrick Nolan	10/22
Molly Lippman	10/23
Mike Sorensen	10/29
Clara Godfrey	10/30



Anniversaries

Aaron & Melissa Hayes	10/2
Alex & Erin Dozier	10/12
Ray & Judy Hasson	10/12
Rich & Bonnie Denton	10/13
Benjamin & Heidi Hewes	10/13
Paul & Susan Johnson	10/16



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



*October
Scripture Readings*

Sunday October 5
Seventeenth After Pentecost
Lamentations 1:1-6 Lamentations 3:19-26 or Psalm 137
• Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4 Psalm 37:1-9 • 2 Timothy 1:1-14 • Luke 17:5-10

Sunday October 12
Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Jeremiah 29:1, 4-7 Psalm 66:1-12 • 2 Kings 5:1-3, 7-15c Psalm 111
• 2 Timothy 2:8-15 • Luke 17:11-19

Sunday October 19
Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Jeremiah 31:27-34 Psalm 119:97-104 • Genesis 32:22-31 Psalm 121
• 2 Timothy 3:14-4:5 • Luke 18:1-8

Sunday October 26
Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost
Joel 2:23-32 Psalm 65 • Sirach 35:12-17 or Jeremiah 14:7-10, 19-22
Psalm 84:1-7 • 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18 • Luke 18:9-14



**Small Group
Circle Ministry**

The groups will commence in October 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.



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).



**Confirmation
Class**

We are assessing interest in holding a confirmation class. If you are interested, please contact Pastor Pat. Confirmation age is 12-15.

A message from

MISSIONS

Linda Davis Food Pantry

Donations



For October, the Food Pantry is asking us to continue collecting **SPAGHETTI** sauce. So, as you grocery shop each

week, add this item 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.

October Community Supper

Thursday October 16th

5:30 p.m. in

Fellowship Hall



Our October theme is

Pumpkin, Spice 'N'

Everything Nice. 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 Special Missions Offering Will be Received on Sunday, October 5th as part of World Communion Sunday

Did you know that **Neighbors in Need** "was affirmed as an all-church offering in a 1999 General Synod resolution. The resolution states: 'Through this offering we will express our deep commitment to reaching out and touching neighbors with justice and compassion. This will allow us to speak prophetically to those in power and to advocate for a society where all people have a voice in the decisions that affect their lives.'"

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.

"Your donations provide the UCC with an opportunity to re-kindle efforts to build a more just world for all".*

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.

Thank you for your support in this special missions project!

**Some of this information was provided in the NIN materials.*

Our Next Red Cross Blood Drive

Is Friday, October 17th

11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.



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 13. 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.

Gales Ferry/ Ledyard CROP Walk.
Walk, Give, Change the World.

SAVE THE DATE!

Sunday, October 19th



This year's CROP Walk is scheduled for **Sunday, October 19th**. We will kick off the walk with a pancake breakfast on **Saturday, October 4th**. **On Sunday October 5th**, Frank Denton will join us to talk about the CROP WALK.

CROP Hunger Walks are community-based walk fundraising events held in cities and towns across the United States, created to support the global mission of Church World Service (CWS), a faith-based organization transforming communities around the globe through just and sustainable responses to hunger, poverty, displacement and disaster.

After our CROP Hunger Walk ends, 25% of the funds raised in our Gales Ferry/ Ledyard walk is returned to our community to support local hunger fighting efforts.

The walk starts from the United Methodist Church in Gales Ferry at 1:00 p.m. with check in starting at 12:30. The route is a 4-mile loop, but you can walk any distance that feels right for you so it's a perfect event for everyone.

Please consider joining our Ledyard Congregational Church team and take us one step closer to ending hunger once and for all. To sign up to be a member of our team, go to: <https://events.crophungerwalk.org/crophungerwalks/team/ledyard-congregational-church-2>. Not able to walk? You can still help by making a donation to our team. on the same web page. It's that simple. If you are having difficulty using the link, please contact Chris Schuft at: chrisschuft@gmavt.net or by phone at 802-488-0802. With general questions about the walk, please contact Kathy Fletcher at: fletcherkathy406@gmail.com or by phone at: 860-861-8287.

**Let's help end hunger
one step at a time!**

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.

**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!



FAQs update #2 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.
- NOTE: The alarm panel inside the social hall door reflects the status of the upper sanctuary partition #3 only, and NOT social hall. Social Hall is part of partition #1 and its status is reflected on the alarm panel inside the office foyer entry door.

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?

- You can arm or disarm multiple (or all) 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] 1 1 * (disarm partition 1— Office area and Social Hall)
 - * [PIN] 1 2 * (disarm partition 2— Fellowship Hall and Lester Room)
 - * [PIN] 1 3 * (disarm partition 3— Sanctuary)
 - * [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



NOVEMBER Chatter

Deadline is

**WEDNESDAY,
OCTOBER 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, October 4th

The featured organization is the Gales Ferry/Ledyard CROP Walk.

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 will now meet on Thursdays from 9:30-11:00 a.m. starting October 2nd.

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

*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.*

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 could use your help to make this year's bazaar another successful fundraiser. There are so many ways you can help!

Bake Sale/Pies This is a very popular spot! Lots of ways to help:

- ★ Provide ingredients in advance for the prepared foods sold that day. There will be sign up sheets put out for this soon.
- ★ Provide baked goods for the day of the bazaar: Individual packaging of your baked items is encouraged, and please be sure to indicate if the ingredients include nuts.
- ★ Help a couple days prior to the bazaar with preparation of the salads we sell
- ★ Help sell baked items that day
Bake Sale

Coordinator: Carol Ganz

Basket Raffle Such an important and fun part of our bazaar!

- ★ Please consider providing a basket, or maybe you could go in on a themed basket with another family? Baskets (or items to be incorporated into a basket) are due to the church library by **Sunday, November 9th**. Ellen Seeman has graciously offered to put your items together and make your basket

festive if you prefer to leave that to her. Including a basket or container with your items is helpful, but not necessary. Please sign up in Fellowship Hall soon!

Coordinator: Ellen Seeman

Ornaments/Decorations and

Handcrafts Please consider providing a craft for the center booth of our bazaar!

- ★ Some suggestions include Christmas tree decorations, handmade toys, bibs, baby items, table runners, table décor, aprons, potholders, doll clothes, wreaths, centerpieces, greeting cards, pillowcases, goodies for the birds, etc.
- ★ **Join us** for craft workshops in the craft room off of the music room.
 - **Mondays** 10:00 a.m. to noon
 - **Tuesday** 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

If you plan to attend the evening class, please reach out to Karen Rhodes, Andrea Barbour, or Sue Burns. Coordinators: Karen Rhodes and Andrea Barbour

Cookie Walk Another very popular booth!

- ★ The cookies sell out every year. If you haven't already spoken with Kathie Saums, please let her know if you can provide cookies. Kathie will be sending an email with all details, so keep an eye out for that!

Coordinator: Kathie Saums

Jewelry Do you have jewelry you don't wear anymore?

- ★ Consider donating them to this good cause! Costume jewelry is also accepted. Please leave your jewelry donations in the basket in Fellowship Hall. Our customers find this booth quickly when the doors open!!

Coordinator: Barb Sorensen

Heart Ornaments These priceless keepsake ornaments will be on sale again this year. As of this writing, we don't need any help. Busy hands have been working hard and have put us in good shape.

Coordinator: Jeanne Allyn

Luncheon Lots of help needed!

- ★ Sandwiches, Soups, Dessert, Kitchen Help and Wait Staff. Please check out the sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall soon
- ★ Help serve lunch the day of the bazaar

Coordinator: Dolly Hayes

Clean Up After the Bazaar-If you can be there around 2:30, your help will be much appreciated!! We will be moving items so they can be sold after church on the next 2 Sundays, taking down some tables and chairs, cleaning floor, etc. **THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP!**

Any questions, please contact Sue Burns (sebcpa@gmail.com) 860-235-6637.

Women's FELLOWSHIP

Durning our spring and summer meetings, we discussed new ways forward for Women's Fellowship. We've decided to develop a calendar which will provide ample opportunities for individual members to offer or engage others to plan specific programs while still holding some of our more established activities. These include our Bake Sale during the Ledyard Garden Club's May Plant Sale, Grandma's Attic in July, the Red Sleigh Bazaar in November, our Annual Holiday Open House in December, and our Luncheons Out through the year!



Our first event for 2025-26 which was held on Thursday, September 25th was the **Signing and Singing with Claire** program which we invited everyone to attend.

Claire and her mother, Catherine, enlightened and delighted the group who attended the event.

Claire told us her growing up story. Because of having Downs syndrome, verbal communication was difficult for her as a child. Sign language was the antidote. And as she loved it so much she continued learning more and more about ASL ... (American sign language.). Now she teaches it. As her Mom said, "Claire is the only

one in their family who is bilingual!"

Claire signed some songs as we listened to them From YouTube recordings. Inspiring songs such as I AM ME, YOU RAISE ME UP and HOW GREAT THOU ART. Then she taught us how to sign YOU ARE MY SUNSHINE.

I think all who attended were moved and inspired by Claire's presence in our midst.

On Tuesday, **October 14th** we are planning a workshop to put together Fall Cheer Baskets which will then be delivered to people we think would enjoy them and appreciate being remembered.



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

We are all busy planning for our Annual Red Sleigh Bazaar which will be held on Saturday, November 22nd.

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 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 Ledyard Congregational Church. Feel free to bring a friend!

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

Ledyard Congregational Church Fire Drill Instructions Sanctuary

If the Fire Warning Alarm Sounds

Remain calm.

Immediately initiate evacuation procedures.

Do not use the chair lift.

- Proceed to the ground level and outdoors.
 - If sitting by a window, please close it.
 - If you are able, please assist those with mobility challenges, children, as well as any guests in your area.
 - Those with mobility challenges are encouraged to exit the back of the church through the double doors in the Narthex.
 - Those sitting in the front half of the church will exit the front of the church via the fire escape.
 - Those sitting in the back half of the church will exit the back of the church through the double doors in the Narthex.
 - If children are in Sunday School, they will exit with their teachers to the Pole Barn.
 - All walk to the Pole Barn (if possible) ~ the designated assembly area.
- Wait at the designated assembly area until you **hear the sound of 3 blasts from an air horn**, indicating that it's clear to return to the building. *Note: the Pole Barn is our meeting point in the event of separation from family members.*
- If you encounter smoke, take short breaths through your nose and crawl along the floor to the nearest exit.
- Feel all doors with your hand before opening. If the door is hot, do not open it. If the door is cool, open it slowly, keeping behind the door in case you have to quickly close it to protect yourself from oncoming smoke or fire.
- **Do not**
 - go to your automobile or attempt to move it from the parking lot. This could hinder access by emergency vehicles.
 - congregate near building exits, driveways, or roadways.
 - return for coats, purses, briefcases, etc., after leaving the area.
 - reenter the building until an all-clear is issued.
- **Do** give feedback about positives and areas of concern to the Safe Church Committee.

Keep Those Caps and Lids Coming For our Rainbow Bench!



Here are the answers to a few frequently asked questions.

Q: Are the covers on my fast food drinks from McDonald's acceptable?

A: **Yes!** a fast food drink cover is acceptable, but **only** if it has a 2, 4 or 5 "PP" code on it. Solo cup covers ARE NOT ACCEPTABLE! Make sure covers are washed and clean.

Q: My lid has a paper disk on the inside of the lid.

A: The paper disk **MUST** be removed, which is easy to do.

Q. I have a white pill bottle from over-the-counter vitamins which is labeled 1.

A: **No**, that is not acceptable. Prescription pill bottles are acceptable, but they **MUST** have a 2, 4 or 5 recycle code on it. The caps from these bottles are also acceptable.

Have more questions? The display in Fellowship Hall may have the answers. Still unsure? Email Ellen Seeman at evseeman@gmail.com

Thank you Missions and
Faith Formation

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 record 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>

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 (chrisshuft@gmavt.net) for answers. Thank you.



LCC Church Calendar

Our church calendar is on our website: ledyardcongregational.org and also on Breeze! The calendar is updated frequently so be sure to check it out often. All board and Committee chairs make sure that you update all your upcoming meetings and events!



Ledyard Congregational Church Fellowship Hall
For the Gales Ferry/Ledyard CROP Walk
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!

More information about the CROP Walk along with an opportunity to join a team will be available at the breakfast.
Hope to see you there!

All donations will go to the Ledyard Congregational Church CROP Walk team to help end hunger one step at a time!

WALK. GIVE. CHANGE THE WORLD.

2025
CROP HUNGER WALKS

ENDING HUNGER
ONE STEP AT A TIME

*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!

From the Historian's Desk



Three Hundred Years!

We're finally there! It's been three hundred years since the Connecticut colonial General Assembly, at its October 1725 session, granted the northern part of Groton rights as a separate society, making possible what became the Town of Ledyard and our Congregational Church. Captain Morgan and his neighbors had persevered, despite push-back from the town's southern residents, and followed the regulations of the times to obtain their goal of having a church closer to home.

During the October 1725 meeting of the General Assembly, Capt. Peirce, Capt. Noyes, and Mr. Bacchus, the committee that had come out to research the situation in the northern part of Groton, made its report. The evidence they produced included a three page list of the households involved, with approximate distances north from the meetinghouse in Groton and the value of their estate, in pounds, shillings and pence. There were 24 heads of households living about 8

or 9 miles away, 22 about 6 or 7 miles north, and 33 living 3-5 miles north of the meetinghouse. That's 79 families of various sizes, with a total value in estates of 4191 pounds, 15 shillings, 6 pence.

An additional 21 who lived 2-3 miles away were listed and totaled separately. Perhaps there was some thought that they would be remaining in the south society, although they were referenced as being in the "north train band." (This sounds as though the town was already roughly divided for the purposes of militia training.)

Because the report is really the heart of the anniversary being celebrated, I will include it in its entirety.

The committee report, dated September 28, 1725, stated:

Whereas the General Assembly in May last did, upon the petition of Capt. John Morgan and the rest of the petitioners of the north end of Groton, moving to be a society and to set up the worship of God amongst them, appoint us the subscribers to take a view of said town and to inform ourselves as well as we could of its circumstances, and whether they are sufficient for the support of two ministers among them: We have therefore, pursuant to our orders,

been and taken a survey of said place, and from the best knowledge we could gain, (both by our own observation and their information,) we are of the opinion that they are of estates sufficient for the ends proposed by the petitioners; and further, having heard the argument on both sides respecting a dividing line between them, it is our judgement that said line ought to begin at a monument to be erected at the extent of a line drawn from Groton meeting house due north, one mile and twenty rods, and the dividing line to begin at said monument and to run west and by north to the great river on the west, and from said monument to run east and by south to the extent of the east bounds of said town; which lines shall divide between the south and north society. Dated in Groton the 28th day of September, Anno Dom. 1725.

The record simply notes that "the above read, approved and accepted by this Assembly and ordered to be recorded."

Public Records of the Colony of Connecticut, v. 6, p. 557, as published.

North Groton was now free to begin planning how to find a minster, where to meet while they built a meeting house, where to post notice of meetings, etc. They had experience as part of running a

church at Groton, and some perhaps had been there at the setting aside of Groton itself, only twenty years earlier. Now they were on their own!

Also, COMING VERY SOON

Be sure to join us on the lawn of **Bill Library on Saturday, October 4, 10:30-3:30**, as we join with other groups exploring local history at Ledyard History Day, sponsored by the library.



FIRST AID KITS

Just a reminder that we have two First Aid Kits at LCC.

One is located above the AED (Automated External Defibrillator) which is in the hallway connecting Social Hall to the offices, and there is another which is now in Fellowship Hall with a sign above it. ***We moved it out of the kitchen for easier access.***

These will be checked from time to time to be sure all supplies are in place, but if you notice something is needed, please let us know.

The Safety Team

*Beth Smith, Rob Burns, Sue Burns,
Dolly Hayes and
Reverend Pat*

Be the change.

Help change a life. Give blood.



Blood Drive **Ledyard Congregational Church**

Fellowship Hall
722 Colonel Ledyard Hwy, Ledyard

Friday, October 17, 2025
11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Please call 1-800-RED-CROSS (1-800-733-2767), visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter: LedyardCong, or use the QR code below to schedule an appointment.

Come to give blood Sept. 22-Oct. 19 for a \$10
Amazon.com Gift Card by email! See rcblood.org/fall



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

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!

WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

**WILL BE ON TEMPORARY
HIATUS UNTIL NOVEMBER,
SEE YOU THEN!**





CPR, First Aid and use of AED

Below you will find an article about Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) which was printed in an earlier issue of the Chatter.

As an update:

The Safety Team discussed the possibility of purchasing another AED so that we would have one on each floor. At this point, we decided to stay with one and make our next step the scheduling of another CPR/First Aid/AED workshop. Several members of our church participated in a CPR class about a year ago.

If you would be interested in attending such a class, please let Sue Burns or Beth Smith know.

What is an AED and where is it in our church?

AED stands for Automated External Defibrillator and ours is currently located in the hallway connecting Social Hall to the office area. It is on the wall across from the Women's bathroom.

Why do we need this?

AEDs are used to help those experiencing sudden cardiac arrest. It is a sophisticated, yet easy to use medical device that can analyze the heart's rhythm and, if necessary, deliver an electrical shock to help the heart re-establish an effective rhythm. The device has clear audio

instructions guiding the user through each step of the process.

Sudden cardiac arrest is among the leading causes of death in the United States. In fact, more than 350,000 people will suffer cardiac arrest this year. The American Heart Association estimates that expanding access to AEDs could potentially save 50,000 lives each year. Currently, the only way to restore a regular heart rhythm during cardiac arrest is to use an AED.

How do we know when someone is in sudden cardiac arrest?

Signs that someone may be in sudden cardiac arrest include sudden collapse, unresponsiveness, and lack of normal breathing. The person may appear unconscious and not respond to verbal or physical stimuli. They may also have experienced dizziness, lightheadedness, extreme fatigue, weakness, nausea, or vomiting.

Summary

In an emergency always call 911 first. In the case of cardiac arrest begin CPR while someone else runs for the AED. For each minute defibrillation is delayed, the odds of survival are reduced by approximately 10%, so having access to an AED is critical.

The Safety Team Beth Smith, Rob Burns, Sue Burns, Dolly Hayes and Reverend Pat

Project Grants In Memory of Janet Barnett



Save The Date



Sunday, May 3, 2026

On Sunday May 3, 2026, we will hold a the community dinner at Ledyard Congregational Church, UCC to celebrate all the special project that have been funded through the grants in honor of Janet's memory.

All the wonderful projects will be shared at the dinner and we invite you to come and see all that has or will be taking place as we honor Janet's legacy.

Watch for mor details in the coming month!



Looking for Greeters

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 .



Project Grants In Memory of Janet Barnett



We're honoring Janet Barnett's life with dedicated memorial grants to support special projects—each one meaningful, creative, and community-minded, reflecting who she was. The initiative is organized by her nieces and backed by Ledyard Congregational Church, UCC, and we're excited to see what you dream up. Your project should honor Janet's legacy by connecting in some way to her interests described above—such as community-building, education, children, nature, service, or cultural exchange. Funds can be requested in amounts of \$50 to \$5,000 though the full amount requested may not be awarded.

Who can apply?

Anyone with a meaningful idea is welcome to apply—at any age!
Scan the QR code to the left for the project detail and application.



Application Deadline

- **Deadline to Apply:** October 1, 2025 is the preferred deadline for applications, but additional entries may be considered as funds allow.
- **Required Project-Share:** May 3, 2026 at the community dinner and celebration at Ledyard Congregational Church, UCC.

To arrange for a hard copy of the details and application form or for assistance, contact:

Vicky Difilippo at [860-287-2389](tel:860-287-2389)

vehd68@gmail.com or

Lisa Ann Curtis at [860-823-9603](tel:860-823-9603)

lisaanncurtis@yahoo.com.



Faith Formation and Sunday School



The Faith Formation Team is excited about our new Faith Formation offerings for children. We have three groups, as well as childcare for the very young, and we look forward to a vibrant year of learning and growth. On Homecoming Sunday we were happy to welcome so many families to our new Sunday School offerings. In the coming weeks we will focus on building community through activities that help us to better understand what it means to be Christian.

Some things to expect in October:

- Planning for the Blessing of the Animals scheduled for the first Sunday in November, the 2nd.
- Children's Sunday, an opportunity for children to participate on Communion Sunday as greeters, readers, and in other ways.
- Continued participation with Missions in the collection of caps for a rainbow bench.

Please check the weekly Eblast for regular Sunday School updates.

Nursery / Childcare Kristie Lindgren has fun activities planned for our youngest children.

Ages 4-7 Co-led by Dolly Hayes and Leslie Stasko. Expect singing, hands on activities, and scripture reading as children explore community and relationship. We have spent time helped the younger children understand how faith is believing in something you can't see with your eyes. We can't always see the sun behind the clouds, but it is still there. In our Faith Formation class, having faith means believing in and putting our trust in God. In the following weeks, the children will be learning about Communion with God and with each other. We will be sharing bread and juice similar to what is provided at the church service. In the future, we will continue to learn and participate in Communion with the congregation. We look forward to welcoming children and their parents as well. See you each Sunday!

Ages 8-11 Led by Lisa Ann Curtis, this group will explore values, Christian Unitarianism and other major religions, the life and teachings of Jesus, and civic contributions. Previously, we talked about the definition of a value, identified some examples, and considered how we can use them to help us make choices about our actions and words. In coming week, we'll dive a little deeper into individual and shared values and how we can use Love as a primary value.

Ages 12 and older Vicky DiFilippo will lead this group through readings and discussion, as they explore the many ways to put Christian values and the teachings of Jesus into action in their daily lives.

On Sunday September 21st, we talked about emotional strength. We made energy bars, and during the week we each packed one a day in our lunch to remind us to be strong inside.

Christmas Pageant

Ashley Kornatowski will direct the Pageant an annual events loved by both the children and the adults!

Children's Sunday

DeeDee O'Donnell will coordinate children's participation in the first Sunday of the Month service.

Volunteers

If you would like to volunteer to assist in Sunday School Faith Formation, contact Dolly Hayes or Anita Merando. We welcome your participation.

Faith Formation Team meets the second Wednesday of each month at noon in the Holdridge Library. The next meeting is October 8th.

All our welcome to join us!

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.



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.

OCTOBER COMMUNITY SUPPER

Pumpkin, Spice 'n' Everything Nice

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

Thursday, October 16, 2025, our theme will be
Pumpkin, Spice "n" Everything Nice!
Come and see what our cooks come up with.
There will be lots of great foods to chose 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).

The Bill Dinner

Thank you to everyone who had a hand in the planning and participating in the Bill Dinner on Saturday, September 20, 2025. It was a wonderful kick off to our celebration of our 300th anniversary!

A few pictures of making the chowder at the Bill Dinner.

Photos courtesy of Bill Saums



Ledyard Congregational Church Social Justice Team

The Social Justice team has 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 Social Justice Team asks you to join us in prayer during the month of October

World Mental Health Day

World Mental Health Day was established in 1992 by the World Federation for Mental Health, and is celebrated annually on October 10th. This day is intended to raise global awareness for the importance of mental health care, and to remove the stigma associated with mental illness. This year, special focus is given to those impacted by catastrophes and emergencies.

Dear Lord, we pray that you bring safety, hope and comfort to those struggling to find inner peace. May we come to understand and know that mental health is a human right. Help people to feel empowered to reach out for the help they need and deserve. May they know that they are not alone. May we as a society embrace the importance of mental health care for all people.

National Coming Out Day / International Pronouns Day

National Coming Out Day was established in 1988, and is celebrated annually on October 11. It began as a way for LGBTQ+ individuals and families to come out to friends and family, so that they may live open and honest lives. International Pronouns Day, celebrated on the third Wednesday of October, began in 2018. The day is intended to educate people about the importance of honoring and using the chosen pronouns of others. This is especially important to those who identify as gender non-conforming or trans.

Dear Lord, you who have made a beautiful and diverse world, open our hearts so that we may fully celebrate all your children. May we honor our LGBTQ+ family as they step fully into the lives that they are meant to live. May we revel in their joy, and share the burden of their struggles. Show us how to do our part to assure that all people can live fully authentic lives without fear of ridicule or discrimination.

National Indigenous Peoples Day

Since 1992, the second Monday in October has been celebrated in many States as National Indigenous Peoples Day. In 2021, the day was made a National Day of Observance by President Joe Biden. According to President Biden, the day is meant to "honor America's first inhabitants and the tribal nations that continue

to thrive today."

God of all creation, we take time to honor the first inhabitants of our nation, the indigenous people. May we come to appreciate the richness of their histories. Long before our nation was colonized, people had homes, raised families, formed communities and lived full lives before they were displaced. May we recognize, with compassion and a spirit of reconciliation, that we all live on land that once was home to indigenous First Peoples. May we learn to honor this history in a way that acknowledges the unjust actions of the past, and seeks to build relationship and understanding.

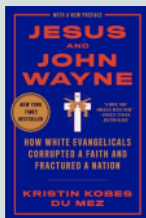
Social Justice Team Meeting, October 16th @ 4:30-5:30

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



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!



Pop-in Prayer, October 23

@ 5:30-6:30

In October we will gather in prayer for all of those, in our church community and beyond, who live with chronic health concerns.

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 an hour, 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]

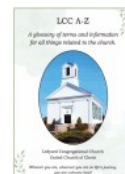
Non-Discrimination Declaration

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@yahoo.com).



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

Church Chatter October 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**



**Time Dated Material
Return Service Requested**