



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

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If we look at the things that were most important to Jesus, it gives us insight into what our discipleship should look like.

From the Pastor's Desk

Office Hours

Wednesdays & Thursday
9:00a.m. — 12:00 p.m.

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

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



A Message From Stewardship

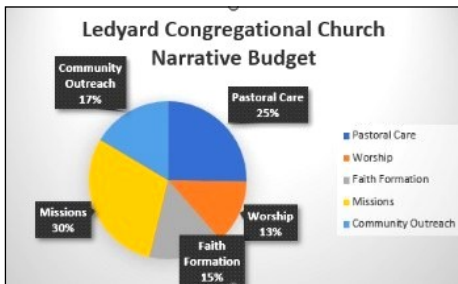
When you think about a budget, what comes to mind? Bills to pay? Within each of our own home budgets, we hope to stay warm, have food on the table, have a car that runs, get medical care when we need it, and, in general, have the means to do what we enjoy and what is important to us. Our church budget is just like that. It allows us, the church, to do what is important to us: To be followers of Jesus, to be a force for peace and justice in the world, to overcome evil with love,

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and to find the peace of Christ in ourselves and other. It allows us to pursue the fulfillment of our mission statement.

Our church budget supports five core functions. They are Worship, Pastoral Care, Faith Formation, Missions, and Community Outreach.



The pie chart here is a depiction of where our budget resources go. This is sometimes described as a narrative budget. Over the next six weeks we will explore each of these areas. We hope you will come away with a stronger sense of how important our church is and how important you are in our ministry. As we enter our Stewardship time together, please stay tuned in as we explore each of these areas.

Your Stewardship Committee



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

Troy Hedman	Kyle Murphy
Tye Frazer	Oliver Murphy

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
Everett Kornatowski	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

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
- Carol Gauthier
- The family of Joan Jirsa
- Gary Melanson
- Cindy M.
- Johanna Nolan
- Karen Rhoades
- Ron Walker
- Roy Warren
- Marge Wilson

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.

Name Tags

In addition to your name, you now have options to add to your name tag:

- * The UCC "God is still speaking" rainbow comma 
- * Gender neutral pronouns (She/Her/Hers; He/Him/His; They/Them/Theirs)
- * The role you have in church, such as Deacon, Trustee, Moderator, etc.

Don't wear your name tag because you don't like clipping it to your clothing? A lanyard is now available.

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!

NUT FREE COFFEE HOUR

In the past, we have asked that any food containing nuts be labeled. However, to ensure the safety of those in our congregation with severe allergies, we must now ask that all foods brought to coffee hour are completely nut free.

Our coffee hour hosts always welcome additional food brought in, just please make sure it is NUT FREE!

Thank you!



October Scripture Readings



Sunday October 4

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20 Psalm 19 • Isaiah 5:1-7 Psalm 80:7-15

• Philippians 3:4b-14 • Matthew 21:33-46

Sunday October 11

Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

Exodus 32:1-14 Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23 • Isaiah 25:1-9 Psalm 23

• Philippians 4:1-9 • Matthew 22:1-14

Sunday October 18

Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost

Exodus 33:12-23 Psalm 99 • Isaiah 45:1-7 Psalm 96:1-9, (10-13)

• 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10 • Matthew 22:15-22

Sunday October 25

Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost

Deuteronomy 34:1-12 Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17 • Leviticus 19:1-2, 15-18

Psalm 1 • 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8 • Matthew 22:34-46



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.



SAVE THE DATE! October 11, 2026

We are having a reception on Sunday, October 11th following our morning worship service for people who have started coming to church in the last year or so. Recent members are invited as well as relatively newcomers. It is a chance to get to know each other and explore in more depth, what LCC is all about! It will be held in the Lester Room. Child Care will be provided.

Hope to see you there!



A message from

MISSIONS

Linda C. Davis Food Pantry

Donations



For the month of **October**, we will continue to collect **sugar**—any size bag for the pantry. With the

holiday fast approaching, sugar will be a much needed item! When you grocery shop, please add a few items for the pantry to your cart. 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.



**Red Cross Blood Drives
Held Wednesday,
September 9th**

Thank you to all who donated blood and helped out at our last drive on September 9th. Twenty-eight products were collected. Red Cross used to report the number in pints but there is new technology that allows separation of whole blood into helpful byproducts.

Our next drive is scheduled for **WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 16TH** from

11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Volunteers as well as snacks will be needed.

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.



**Neighbors in Need Special UCC
Missions Offering**

Neighbors in Need Special UCC Missions offering will be received starting on Sunday, September 20th and be dedicated on Sunday, October 4th.

The Neighbors in Need offering supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. One-third of the offering are given to the Council for American Indian Ministries (CAIM). The remaining two-thirds is used by the UCC's justice ministries to award grants to UCC churches and organizations supporting a variety

of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects.

In 2025 the Neighbors in Need Offering supported 26 grant recipients across the UCC to fund projects that ranges from direct service to community organizing and advocacy to addressing systemic injustice.

Thank you for your support in this special missions project!

**Saturday, October 10th
Breakfast for the New London
Homeless Hospitality Center**



We have launched a new program to provide breakfast on the second Saturday of the month to the New London

Homeless Hospitality Center. See more information on the new endeavor on page 9.

This is in addition to our delivering pizza to the center on the third Saturday of each month!

**October Community Supper
Thursday October 15th
5:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall**



Our October theme is **Fall Comfort Foods**. Not to worry, there will be plenty of different foods to choose from! Come

and see what our amazing cooks come up with.

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

Gales Ferry/Ledyard CROP Walk

WALK. GIVE. CHANGE THE WORLD.

2026
CROP HUNGER WALKS

ENDING HUNGER
ONE STEP AT A TIME

SAVE THE DATES!

- **Pancake Breakfast Saturday, October 3rd**
- **CROP Walk, Sunday, October 18th**

We will kick off our CROP Walk activities with a **pancake breakfast on Saturday, October 3rd**. Breakfast will be served from 7:30-10:00 a.m. This is an opportunity to come and learn all about the CROP Walk. You'll also have the opportunity to join our team.

Then we are all invited to join in the area **CROP Walk on Sunday, October 18th**.

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 at the Methodist Church at 1:00 p.m. Walkers may opt for a long walk or a short walk. All are invited to enjoy the outdoors, meet other people from our town as we work together to end hunger.

If you would like to donate funds, please see Sara Holdridge after church on Sundays leading up to the walk. OR...you may also donate by using the QR code which is on the Pancake Breakfast poster on page 17 and the posters that can be found on bulleting boards around church.

Your Mission's committee continues to be amazed and grateful for the ongoing support from our church family in all our outreach endeavors.

We are always looking for new projects and opportunities to reach out to other people and organizations and welcome your ideas and comments!

Thank you from Sue Burns, Kathy Fletcher, Dolly Hayes, Pastor Pat, Sara Holdridge, Anita Merando, Dee Potter, Meredith Schuft, Ellen Seeman, Kathy Smith, & Jill Thorne.

Great News on Our Caps & Lids Collection



It looks like we have successfully collected the 250 lbs. of caps and lids needed for our 8 foot Rainbow bench and our bench is ordered!

Ellen Seeman and Pastor Pat will be heading to Indiana with Pat's truck filled with our caps and lids on Thursday, October 22nd, picking up the bench on Saturday, October 24th, then returning to Connecticut on Monday, the 26th.

Thank you to everyone who has made this all possible, especially Ellen Seeman who initiated the idea, to everyone who helped at our sorting parties and to Pat Barnes who took home bags and bags to sort and wash!

We've scouted out a spot where we want to put the bench and once the bench arrives we will be able to figure out how to best install it. Watch for further updates!

Your Board of Missions and Faith Formation.



Red Sleigh Bazaar Saturday, November 21st 9:30-2:00

It's coming up! We need your help to make this year's bazaar another successful fundraiser. These are some of the ways you can help:

Ornaments/Decorations and Handicrafts

- Please consider providing a craft for the center booth of our bazaar! We need lots of Christmas tree ornaments! Other suggestions include Christmas decorations, handmade toys, bibs, baby items, table runners, table décor, potholders, doll clothes, wreaths, centerpieces, greeting cards, pillowcases, goodies for the birds, etc. Decorated mini-Christmas trees are always a hit!
- Join us for weekly **craft workshops**!! Beginning on 9/17, we will be holding open weekly craft workshops on Thursdays from 9am-11am in the craft room. If you can only do evening workshops, please reach out to Sue Burns or Kathie Saums and we'll try to arrange for this.
- Ideas for crafts are needed and much appreciated. Please pass them along to Andrea Barbour or Karen Rhoades.

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 donations of jewelry in the basket in Fellowship Hall. Our customers find this booth quickly when the doors open!! There will also be a jewelry making workshop. More information to follow soon from our jewelry guys, so please keep an eye out!!

Treasures Table Looking for home decorations you no longer use, gently used purses, scarves, children's toys with all parts, etc. These previously loved items are a big hit. You can leave them anytime on the side tables in Social Hall.

Bake Sale 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.

More information will be coming. Carol Ganz will be chairing this again. She welcomes help and/or someone who might want to shadow her. This helps keep things going from year to year!

Baked Beans Jill Thorne has offered to make the delicious beans again! Due to her recent hand injury, she will need help moving the big pans around as the beans soak and then bake. If you can lift fairly heavy pans and are free to help her on

November 19th and/or November 20th, please let us know! There will be a spot for this on the sign-up poster in Fellowship Hall.

Salads We need 3 or 4 people to help in the kitchen on Thursday, November 19th and November 20th. Please consider helping Deedee with the preparation of our famous cole slaw, potato salad and rice pudding. It's a fun time! If you can help, please sign up on the poster in Fellowship Hall.

Pies Jeanne Allyn has graciously offered to make pies again. We are all set on help, but stop by to purchase a pie! The timing is great with Thanksgiving just days after the bazaar.

Raffle Basket Such a popular and fun part of our bazaar! Please consider providing a themed basket, or maybe you could go in on a basket with another family? Baskets (or items to be incorporated into a basket) are due to the church library by Sunday, November 15th. 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. Ideas for themes, a sign-up sheet and more information will follow soon from Ellen Seeman.

Luncheon Dolly Hayes will be the

lead on this popular part of the bazaar. She will need kitchen help, waitresses and food donations. If you'd like to help as a worker, please sign up on the poster in Fellowship Hall. There will be a separate sign- up sheet for the food donations closer to the bazaar.

Cookie Walk Another very popular booth! The cookies sell out every year. We need large quantities and variety. Kathie Saums will be sending an email with all details, so keep an eye out for that!

Heart Ornaments These priceless keepsake ornaments will be on sale again this year. If you are clever with lettering and interested in helping, let us know. Otherwise, we are in pretty good shape as busy hands have been hard at work! Contacts: Jeanne Allyn and Jill Thorne.

Clean Up After the Bazaar There is a big need for a clean- up crew after the bazaar. If you can help clean up in the kitchen and/or Fellowship Hall, please sign up on the poster in Fellowship Hall. The clean-up will start at 2:15, 2:30.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP!

Questions can be directed to those mentioned above, or to:

Sue Burns (sebcpa@gmail.com)

860-235-6637

Kathie Saums

(ksaums@centechsolutions.com)

860-501-0239

Public Witness for Peace

Ledyard Congregational Church,
United Church of Christ invites
our members and neighbors
to join us for our
Public Witness for Peace.

- When: the third Thursday of every month
- Time: 5:00– 5:30 p.m.
- Where: 722 Colonel Ledyard Highway on the grass near the Rainbow House facing Colonel Ledyard Highway.
(Our West Parking lot.)

We will start with the ringing of our church bell and gather together, in song, in prayer, reflection and witness to stand publicly for Peace.

We invite all to join us.

For more information about our church, use this QR code!



Our next **wheelchair accessible Sunday worship services** will be

on held on **November 1st** when we will worship in Fellowship Hall.

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

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!

The Social Justice Team and Adult Faith Formation

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?"*



Continuing our summer blend of Adult Faith Formation and

Social Justice Team activities, Elanah Sherman organized a tour of **Slater Memorial Museum** on the grounds of Norwich Free Academy. From Greek statuary to exhibits from local artists, the museum illuminated themes of LGBTQ, immigrant, and Black histories, providing context and historical evidence that celebrate the rich and diverse history of the Norwich area. If you missed it, we encourage you to check out the **Slater Memorial Museum**. A follow-up outing is being planned to view Norwich's outdoor public art, and details will be announced in the weekly e-blast.



Adult Faith Formation Small Groups Anita's Reflection

For several months, some of us have participated in Small Group meetings. What are

Small Groups? Each is individualized to reflect the wants and ideas of the participants. The group I attend meets monthly for an hour and a half, and shares snacks and music before breaking into smaller groups to discuss a chosen theme and coming back together to plan our next group meeting. The conversations are often bible based, and touch upon meaningful topics-- so far, we have explored courage, forgiveness, the unexpected, the acceptance of troubles that can't be fixed, and finding joy in our circumstances. Not having prior experience with Small Groups, I really didn't know what to expect. Here's what I've found: our monthly meetings are a priority, and I look forward to seeing everyone. We quickly get past the small talk, and share what is on our hearts. We share from our past, our current struggles and joys, and our hopes for the future. There is a level of empathy and caring that is hard to establish during coffee hour. Personally, it is time to get to know others more fully, and in doing so get to better know and understand myself. Are you interested in attending a Small Group? Reach out to Anita Merando or Pastor Pat.



Ongoing Activities

2nd Saturday Breakfast NLHHC

We are now providing breakfasts to the center. See more details in the article on page 9.



3rd Thursday Public Witness for Peace 5:00-5:30 p.m.

Join us each 3rd

Thursday in witness for peace. After four months of public witness, we see a growing engagement of people driving by, honking, and waving, and we have been joined by several people from the greater Ledyard community. We invite you to come early for the Community Supper and join us on the grassy area near the Rainbow House. As the song directs us, *"Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me."*

LCC Social Justice Team's Next Meeting, Thursday September 17th 4:00-5:00 p.m.

The LCC Social Justice Team meets the 3rd Thursday of every month in the Holdridge Library.

- 4:00—5:00 p.m.—SJT monthly meeting.
 - 5:00—5:30 p.m.— Public Witness for Peace
- All are invited to join us





Breakfast for the New London Homeless Hospitality Center

A group of our congregation recently visited the **New London Hospitality Center** where we learned that there are no provisions for breakfasts on weekends. Matthew 25:35 says "for I was hungry and you gave me food...". In response, LCC is now providing breakfast to center residents on the second Saturday of each month.

Our Social Justice Team and our Board of Missions agreed to have this project fall under their umbrellas, but we would like to see this become a church-wide mission. Details are still being refined but here are the dates for the rest of this year: 10/10, 11/14, 12/12.

If you would like to become involved in shopping for the food, and/or helping deliver and serve the breakfast, talk with Barbara Sorensen, [\(860\) 884-1502](tel:8608841502)

Let's work together to feed the hungry!



October Community Supper Fall Comfort Foods

Thursday, October 15, 2026
Ledyard Congregational Church

Come and see what our amazing cooks come up with. There will be lots of great food to choose from!



Supper will be served at 5:30pm.

This is **FREE** with a donate-what-and-if-you-can supper and 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).

For more information about our church, use this QR code!



COFFEE HOUR HOSTS NEEDED

We would love to have a few more individuals that could help host our Coffee Hours each Sunday morning! If you would be interested to help on either a regular basis, or just to fill in occasionally when needed, please contact Ellen Seeman at (860) 884-3414

FAITH • COMMUNITY • SERVICE

300TH

— ANNIVERSARY —

1725 2025

LEDYARD
CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

1725-2025

Women's FELLOWSHIP

Our first meeting for 2026-27 was held on Tuesday, September 8th. We put a list of possible program ideas together and continuing to work on finalizing some plans. We have lots of ideas for programs and events and just need a few people to step up and take the lead organizing one, if it's something you would like to see happen. We already have a few slots filled. Below are a few planned programs and a few suggestions. Other ideas are encouraged and always welcome as this is your organization!

Women's Fellowship Tuesday, October 13th 7:00-8:30 p.m. Social Hall

Women's Fellowship will be gathering on Tuesday, October 13th to assemble **Fall Cheer Baskets** for people we believe would enjoy them and appreciate a visit. All materials will be provided. We will just need help putting the baskets together. The next step will be for people to take one or two and deliver them. If you can join us that evening, you can take the baskets with you. Otherwise, there may be baskets left on the table in Social Hall. All the baskets are tagged with the person's name, address, and phone number! We have done fall and spring baskets for the last few years, and it

has been heartwarming to see how much the baskets are appreciated.
Point People: Leslie & Ellen Stasko

Tuesday, October 20th 7:00-8:30 p.m. Fellowship Hall

Presentation by Jenna Saldana, the Director of **El Porvenir**, a non-profit organization doing important work transforming the lives of people in Nicaragua by implementing sustainable clean water solutions.
Point People: Sara Holdridge & Vicky DeFilippo

November Luncheon Out

Point Person: Kathie Saums will be organizing this event. More details will be available soon.

November 21st Red Sleigh Bazaar

Point People: Sue Burns & Kathie Saums

December 8th Holiday Open House

Needs a Host.

January Luncheon Out

Point Person: Jeanne Allyn will organize if she is here.

February 9th Second Annual Tea Party

Point Person: Jill Thorne

March Luncheon Out

Would need an organizer.

April 13th Spring Cheer Baskets

WF and Faith Formations will work together on this event.

May 11th

Annual meeting with Salad Potluck

May 15th Bake Sale

To be held during the Ledyard Garden Club's Plant Sale
Would need an organizer.

June/July Grandma's Attic

Point People: Dolly & Hayes & Kathy Smith

Other Ideas

- Habitat Community Forum – work with Missions and possibility the United Methodist Church
- Slavery in New England with a concentration on Connecticut– work with the Social Justice Team
- Chair Yoga
- More Luncheons Out

Please continue to read the monthly Chatter newsletters and the weekly E-blasts during the year for more updates and news from Women's Fellowship.

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!

All are Welcome!

From the Historian's Desk



After a Year, Still Beginning

In October 1725 the General Assembly gave permission for a new society, splitting the north half of Groton off as a second (or “north”) society. One year later, the newly minted parish was not celebrating their year of accomplishments, but instead still working on establishing the basics – a settled minister and a meetinghouse.

Leaders had set up a meeting, with plenty of notice ahead, in early January 1725/6. Since then, there was some progress – establishing a system of committeemen to guide the work, and guest preaching in homes by Samuel Seabury (ten weeks) and Simon Beckus (apparently for about four to five months). In October 1726 they were still seeking a candidate to settle with them permanently, but they opted to look for someone to preach through the winter in the meantime. It appears they engaged a Mr. Treat, who was paid twenty shillings a week. They chose homes to host Sabbath services during the upcoming winter. Ensn. William Williams, Capt. John Morgan,

William Morgan and Mr. Robart Allyn (and presumably their wives) would provide hospitality for the next few months.

Perhaps settling a minister would be easier when they had a permanent meeting place at least started, but that was not yet the case. A decision had been made to place the meetinghouse in the center of the society, but where was that? A committee was working on it, but their report did not come until the following February. It was not until minutes of a December 1727 meeting when a “meeting house that is begun” was mentioned.

Progress on the building was slow. Two years later, when they finally ordained their first settled minister, Ebenezer Punderson, the meetinghouse was available for use, but clearly not yet finished. Perhaps Mr. Punderson saw promising progress before agreeing.

In October 1726 North Society was really just beginning their quest for a settled minister and a meetinghouse of their own, but they had made a start!

SAVE THE DATE

Join us on **Sunday, October 18**, as we wrap up this year of celebrating our 300th anniversary. Plans are being developed for a special service of celebration and re-dedication, so be sure to join us then!

Ledyard History Day Sponsored by the Bill Library Saturday. October 3rd

We have been asked to participate again in the Ledyard History Day sponsored by Bill Library. It will be Saturday, October 3, from 10:30-3:30. I will gather information and displays about the history of our church as well as its historical relationship to the town, as I have in the past. I would greatly appreciate some volunteers to join me in chatting with visitors to the display, perhaps two shifts of two. (The event conveniently follows the October Pancake Breakfast.)

Monday Morning Bible Study

Our
Monday
morning
Bible study



will resume on Monday, September 14th. We meet each week 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!



Faith Formation and Sunday School



A New Church School Year

We often think of “newness” in January, or when we celebrate spring and Easter, but Homecoming brings its own beginning: a new church school year.

This summer we took vacations, rested, stepped away from extra commitments—and maybe even skipped church here and there. While some LCC children continued to gather with volunteers for activities and lessons, our more structured Sunday School program took a break.

Now we’re back at it. We have new classes, a unified Sunday School calendar, planned lessons and activities, and the renewed energy that comes after a little rest. We also have some exciting momentum. We’re seeing new people joining us at Ledyard Congregational, including families with children, and that is important to the future of our church.

Our Sunday School children are future LCC members, but so are their parents. We are welcoming two generations of people who may become the members, volunteers,

supporters and leaders of this church in the years ahead. They are coming because they are looking for something, and hopefully they will stay because they find something here that matters to them. Children need a safe, welcoming place to learn and grow and parents need support during a demanding time in their lives. Sometimes parents come to church because they need an hour to worship and find peace. We are an intergenerational church, and it is lovely to be learning from each other, while navigating our own journeys, together.

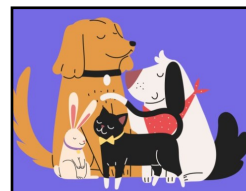
We are excited to announce that we have hired a new Sunday School Coordinator! The Nursery Attendant still remains open. It is a priority for the Faith Formation team to have organized, consistent, safe, and welcoming care in place which will allow our volunteer teachers and classroom helpers to focus on the children. Thank you to all the church members who have volunteered and agreed to a background check. We're doing this together!

We have a wonderful opportunity in front of us. Let’s keep the momentum going. Let’s welcome new families, support one another, and build the intergenerational connections that make LCC a church family. Let’s get ready for a new generation of Ledyard Congregationalists—and make this a great church school year.

SAVE THE DATE

Blessing of the Animals Sunday, November 1st

Bring your animal friends to our Sunday service.



During the month of October, our Sunday School children will

collect small packages of dog and cat food for **Ledyard CHAIN** (Citizens Helping Animals In Need).

Details to follow in the weekly eblast.

Ongoing Events

Bible Study, Monday Mornings at 10:30 in the Holdridge Library

Kerygma program, Know Your Bible, Wednesday evenings 7:00-8:30 in the Holdridge Library

Small Groups Want to join one? Reach out to Pastor Pat or Anita

Adult Faith Formation meets the Second Wednesday of each month at 11:00 a.m. in the Holdridge Library. Followed by **Faith Formation Sunday School** at 12:00 noon. Our Next meetings are Wednesday, October 14th.

All are invited to join us.

Welcome Kris!

We are delighted to announce that Kris Greene is our new Faith Formation Sunday School Coordinator. Kris has broad experience working with children and families as a classroom teacher, curriculum developer, park ranger, and currently in her role as camp director and educator at Denison Pequotsepos Nature Center.

Kris will assist our Sunday School teachers and support parents and children as well as get the word out to our community about our Sunday School programming.

As our Sunday School continues to grow, Kris will help assure that we build a lasting foundation, capable of supporting our children into the future.

Please join us in welcoming Kris Greene.



BLESSING OF THE ANIMAL



**SUNDAY,
NOVEMBER 1ST
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 !



Photos from our Sunday morning worship service and picnic at Bluff Point State Park on Sunday, August 30th.



Our St. Pauly Textile Clothing Shed is Here!

Our clothing shed is all set up and already receiving donations! Acceptable items include all clothing, shoes, sneakers, belts, purses, blankets, towels, sheets, pillowcases, curtains and stuffed toys!

St. Pauly Textile, Inc. is a family owned company which has been operating for over 27 years and an A+ member of the Better Business Bureau. After collecting clothing and textiles from our shed, for which we receive 4 cents a pound, they sell the items in bulk to companies all over the world who then sort out wearable clothing from un-wearable and those items are recycled. We are excited to offer people in our community a safe and convenient way to donate while helping to eliminate items ending up in the landfill. Additionally, we have the option of providing clothing to someone in the community if the need arises and there's a QR code on the shed which leads to a downloadable receipt form to retain for tax deductions. All in all, it's a win win! Now, we just need a few more people to join our team of volunteers who, on a rotating schedule, will access the shed and move donations away from the chute. Please contact Meredith via email: chrisandmeri@gmavt.net or phone: 802-363-3808.

THE JANE BLIVEN KITCHEN

Have you ever noticed the wooden plaque above the kitchen in Fellowship Hall and wondered who Jane Bliven is or why the kitchen is named for her?

Jane has been a long-standing member of LCC, who is a dear friend to many. She is one who is quiet, hard working, and over the years has dedicated many hours to orchestrating and directing the making of gallons of potato salad, cold slaw, baked beans, bean salad, and many other delicious foods in the Fellowship Hall kitchen. For any bake sale that has come along Jane could be counted on to contribute many wonderful goods. She has worked on Strawberry Suppers, Geer reunions, Agway dinners, funeral receptions, wedding receptions, volunteered to make the coffee for pancake breakfasts, and has participated in whatever else came up that involved food! Jane

would often be the last one ready to leave an event because there was something more that needed doing. And on the list goes. It seems fitting that with all of her dedication and contributions over the years that the kitchen be named in honor of Jane Bliven. The next time you are in line waiting for refreshments during coffee hour, take note of the sign for the Jane Bliven Kitchen and think of Jane and her wonderful contributions to LCC.

On another topic, it's interesting to note that in addition to the kitchen, Jane has also tended the church gardens for years, quietly working to prune bushes, plant flowers, weed as she is able and pick up trash around the church. In fact, it was Jane's suggestion to have a Memorial Garden. She has been described as being like the Energizer bunny—always busy!



Flowers for the Sanctuary



It has been a tradition that we have flowers provided for the altar each Sunday during the year. It is an opportunity for couples to celebrate anniversaries, a time to remember loved ones who have passed, recognize a special time, event or achievement, or simply to be grateful for the beauty in the world. There is a poster in the Fellowship Hall to sign up for a specific Sunday, or you can simply contact me directly. The flowers you provide do not need to be anything fancy! The grocery stores sell inexpensive bouquets, you could bring fresh flowers or cuttings from your garden, or even a basket of apples in the fall would be lovely. There are *lots* of vases at church that are available for use. If you would like to provide flowers but need assistance in doing so, please don't hesitate to contact me. I will be happy to purchase flowers for you and bring them to the church or help in any way needed. And, if there is another person who would be interested in helping with flowers for the church during the year, that would be wonderful too! Thank you for your consideration to add a touch of beauty to our Sunday services.

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



Transforming Lives Through Clean Water

Presentation

Tuesday, October 20, 2026

7:00 p.m.

Ledyard Congregational Church
Fellowship Hall

Please join us when we welcome
Jenna Saldana, the Director of a non-profit called
El Porvenir who will tell us about the
important work they are doing to transform
the lives of the people in Nicaragua by implementing
sustainable clean water solutions.

The water, sanitation, and watershed restoration
programs are critical to improving the living standards
of the rural poor while protecting the environment.

Refreshments will be served.

Sponsored by the Women's Fellowship

For more information about our church,
use this QR code!



WATER



SANITATION



WATERSHED
RESTORATION

Help Us Jump Start the Writing Group!

We are now meeting on Monday mornings at 9:00 a.m. in the Holdridge library. This gives us a chance to chat and mingle and maybe even write a bit.

All are welcome and we can't wait to see you there!

LIONS RECYCLE FOR SIGHT



Did you know that the Ledyard Lions Club collects used eyeglasses and hearing aids?

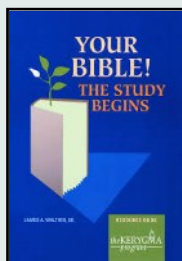
There is a box inside Fellowship Hall where you can drop off your items. Thank you!

WEDNESDAY NIGHT BOOK STUDY GROUP

7:00-8:30 p.m.
in the Holdridge

Library

The **Wednesday Night Book Group** has begun the **KERYGMA** program which will continue through **October 28th**.



Kerygma is an innovative Bible Study program designed specifically for adults. Your Adult Faith Formation team put this study forward for all adults in the community of LCC. **Kerygma** offers a number of educational opportunities. **Know Your Bible** is a comprehensive introduction to the Bible.

This study will give you a working knowledge of how the Bible is put together, the various types of books in the Bible and how they fit together. Kerygma is lively, fun and informative.

This class is being led by our own Marilyn McNaughton.

Please join us for this exciting study.



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

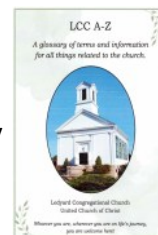
We welcome into full participation all who seek to follow Jesus, including persons of every age, gender, race, national origin, faith background, marital status and family structure, mental and physical ability, economic and social status, and educational background, to share in the life, leadership, 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

It's time for the LCC A-Z to be updated.

Please give Beth Smith any additions/deletions/edits by the end of June.



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

FIRE ALARM**Fire Drill
Sunday,
October
25th**

A fire drill is scheduled for Sunday, October 25th, following the church service. Please review the instructions included in this month's Chatter on page 18.

Questions or concerns about the fire drill or any other aspects of safety can be expressed to any of the Safe Church Committee members (*Rob Burns, Sue Burns, Dolly Hayes, Beth Smith*).

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

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

If you are interested being one of our happy and friendly greeters on Sundays, please speak with Beth Ayer after church or contact her via email: girlsmomX3@comcast.net or by phone: [\(860\) 608-5951](tel:8606085951).

**October
PANCAKE
BREAKFAST****OCTOBER 3, 2026**

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 our 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!

You can make a donation to our team using this QR code!



2026
Gales Ferry/Ledyard
CROP HUNGER WALK

**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).

Did you Know?

We have [hearing assistance devices](#) to assist the hearing-impaired during worship services.

See the Tech Team before worship to try one!

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.



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 while learning more about the sponsoring organizations!

Each month, all profits from the free-will donations will go to support the featured organization.

Saturday, October 3rd

All donations will go to **the Gales Ferry/Ledyard CROP Walk!**

Saturday, November 7th

All donations will go to **Days for Girls**.

Saturday, December 5th

All donations will go to support our **Social Justice Team's**.

Thank you for your continuing support for all our sponsoring organizations!

COME JOIN US!

ALL ARE WELCOME!

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!!!

Basket items should be donated by **Sunday, November 15th** and can be left in the church library. 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! Any questions please don't hesitate to call/text/email me. Ellen Seeman 860-884-3414 evseeman@gmail.com



NOVEMBER Chatter
Deadline is **THURSDAY, 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.

The Chatter has increased from 12 to 20 pages, which has added significant time to the production time!

Thank You, Meredith Schuft



Deacons' Fund

Communion Sundays provide an opportunity to contribute to the Deacons' Fund. This fund is set aside for members of the congregation who have a financial emergency. It is also used for people in the local community experiencing an emergency. Envelopes for this special collection can be found in the pews on the first Sunday of the month. Our next collection will take place on November 1st.



LCC Church Calendar

Our church calendar is on our website: ledyardcongregational.org and also on Breeze! The calendar is updated frequently so be sure to check it out often.

All board and Committee chairs make sure that you update all your upcoming meetings and events!

Not on Breeze yet? Contact Chris via email: chrisschuft@gmavt.net or via phone: 802-488-0802 and he will get you up and running.

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.

Our Mission

We are followers of Jesus, united in spirit and inspired by God's grace to bring justice and love to all.



Church Chatter

October 2026

*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.



Time Dated Material
Return Service Requested