



Church Chatter

September 2025

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

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A Message From Pastor Pat

Hope to see you at our **Homecoming Celebration! On Sunday, September 14th** we will welcome everyone back to begin a new program year at LCC. Whether you have been gone for a few weeks, the summer or for years, this is a time to make your way back to your faith community. We will welcome you with open arms and open hearts.

Please read through this edition of the Chatter. There are lots of new

things happening and we want you to be part of them!

Yours in Faith,
Pastor Pat

**WEDNESDAY
MORNING
BIBLE STUDY
WILL BE ON TEMPORARY
HIATUS UNTIL
SEPTEMBER 10TH**



**We will resume on Wednesday,
September 10th from
10:30—11:30 a.m.**

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

All are welcome!

Thursday Bible 101



The final Thursday evening Bible class will be held on Thursday September 4th from 7:00 -8:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. We will finish our exploration into the New Testament. All are welcome, even if you haven't attended previous classes.

*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



September Birthdays

Carly Curtis	9/1
Tye Frazer	9/2
Molly Barnett Harlow	9/3
Kim Williams	9/3
Alex Dozier	9/4
Sarah Schilke	9/4
Marlaine Bernier	9/5
Stacey Cain	9/5
Ginny Hungerford	9/6
Jim Rhoades	9/6
Ginny Kornatowski	9/7
Beth Ayer	9/9
Benjamin Hewes	9/10
Adrienne Saums	9/10
Darleen Celotto	9/11
Gerard Johnson	9/12
Ethan Foltz	9/13
Eli Dozier	9/15
Michele Saums	9/16
Barb Sorensen	9/19
Dolly Hayes	9/20
Nicholas Smith	9/26
Isla Godfrey	9/26
Gavin Olson	9/26



September Anniversaries

Jim & Barb Sorensen	9/17
Ernie & Darleen Celotto	9/24
Jim & Cindy Atkinson	9/28
Bill & Carol Dawson	9/28
Fred & Jami Allyn III	9/29



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

Troy Hedman Kyle Murphy
Tye Frazer Oliver Murphy



Sunday, September 21st
**following worship service in the
Holdridge Library**

Would you like to know more
about joining Ledyard
Congregational Church? Join us
for the inquirer's class! Bring
your questions and join in lively
conversation about all that is
happening at LCC!



Looking for Greeters

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

If you are interested being one of
our happy and friendly greeters on
Sundays, please speak with Beth
Ayer after church or contact her
via email:

girlsmomX3@comcast.net or by
phone: (860) 608-5951 .

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 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 September

International Equal Pay Day

International Equal Pay Day was established by the United Nations on September 18, 2020. It is an effort to increase awareness and action toward establishing equal pay for equal value throughout the world. Globally, women are paid 20% less than men. Employment conditions and discrimination are embedded in our economic structures, affecting the ability of all people to flourish.

Dear Lord, throughout the world people strive to provide for their families. Please open our hearts and minds to the conditions of people whose lives we do not see, yet whose work benefits our daily lives. Please show us how we may work for a more fair and equitable system of pay for all people.

International Day of Sign Languages

International Day of Sign Languages celebrated on September 23 was established by the World Federation of the Deaf in 1951. There are over 300 sign languages worldwide, and an international sign language used to communicate universally. Adopted by the United Nations in 2017, the day recognizes the importance of sign languages and the full realization of the human rights of those people who are deaf.

Dear Lord, we recognize the ability to communicate is a basic human need. May we deepen our own understanding of the rich community and culture of the

deaf community. May we work to make our Church an inviting place of worship for the deaf community.

Social Justice Team Meeting, September 18 @ 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.



September Scripture Readings

Sunday September 7

Thirteenth After Pentecost

Jeremiah 18:1-11 Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18 • Deuteronomy 30:15-20 Psalm 1
• Philemon 1:1-21 • Luke 14:25-33

Sunday September 14

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Jeremiah 4:11-12, 22-28 Psalm 14 • Exodus 32:7-14 Psalm 51:1-10
• 1 Timothy 1:12-17 • Luke 15:1-10

Sunday September 21

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Jeremiah 8:18-9:1 Psalm 79:1-9 • Amos 8:4-7 Psalm 113 • 1 Timothy 2:1-7
• Luke 16:1-13

Sunday September 28

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6-15 Psalm 91:1-6, 14-16 • Amos 6:1a, 4-7 Psalm 146
• 1 Timothy 6:6-19 • Luke 16:19-31

A message from

MISSIONS

Linda Davis Food Pantry

Donations



For September, the Food Pantry is asking for **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.

September Community Supper

Thursday September 18th

5:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall

Our September theme is **Back to School**. 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!

Thank you to Everyone who Helped Collect item for the Camp HOPE America Campers

Thanks to you, we successfully collected all the items needed to send 8 children to **Safe Futures Camp HOPE America** this summer.



Thank you for helping to make a difference in the lives of these children!

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-ignite



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.*

Save the Date for Our Next Red

Cross Blood Drive

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. 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** to be followed by **CROP Walk Sunday on October 5th** with the help of our Sunday School children!

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.

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!





FAQs update 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.

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)
- * [PIN] 1 2 * (disarm partition 2)
- * [PIN] 1 3 * (disarm partition 3)
- * [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



Ledyard Congregational 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!



OCTOBER Chatter
Deadline is **MONDAY,**
SEPTEMBER 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

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.

Nursery / Childcare

Kristie Lindgren has fun activities planned for our youngest children and will meet in the Nursery.

Ages 4-7

Co-led by Dolly Hayes and Leslie Stasko, this group will meet in the Lester Room and provide activities related to the scriptures, guiding children to take on projects and explore what it means to follow the example of Jesus. You can expect hands-on activities. To get started, the children will help to plan the **Blessing of the Animals** in October. On Communion Sundays, they will go to Sunday School after the Word For All Ages, and return to the Sanctuary in time for Communion.

Ages 8-11

Led by Lisa Ann Curtis, this group will meet in Fellowship Hall and explore values, Christian Unitarianism and other major religions, the life and teachings of Jesus, and civic contributions. On Communion

Sundays, the children will remain in the Sanctuary and assist with the service.

Ages 12 and older

Vicky DiFilippo will lead this group in the Holdridge Library. Through readings and discussion, they will explore the many ways we put Christian Values and the teachings of Jesus into action in our daily lives. On Communion Sundays, they will remain in the Sanctuary and assist with the service.

Christmas Pageant

Ashley Kornatowski will direct our Pageant this year. More information to follow!

Children's Sunday

DeeDee O'Donnell will coordinate children's participation in the First Sunday of the Month services.

Volunteers

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

SAVE THE DATE! HOMECOMING SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2025

Come one and all to Homecoming, formerly Rally Day.



Whether you attend regularly, or have been away for a while, we invite you to join us for Sunday service at 9:30, followed by ice cream, conversation, games for the children, and an opportunity to learn about Faith Formation Sunday School and all the wonderful things that we are doing at LCC.

The next Faith Formation meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 10th at 12 noon.

Everyone is invited to attend!



Church Picnic
at Bluff Point.
Sunday,
July 20th.



Red Sleigh Bazaar
Saturday,
November 22nd
9:30 -2:00

It's time to begin thinking about this major fundraiser again!! Below are the booths we are planning for at this point, along with a general overview as to how you can help. More details for all will follow soon.

Bake Sale/Pies

- ★ provide baked goods (Coordinator: Carol Ganz)
- ★ help prepare beans, salads and rice pudding in advance (Jane Bliven will help **but needs a team to lead this**)

Basket Raffle

- ★ provide a basket. We will provide theme suggestions soon, but you are free to come up with your own. If you don't want to package up your goods, Ellen Seeman has offered to provide this wonderful service for us again. (Coordinator: Ellen Seeman)

Handcrafts/Decorations/Ornaments

- ★ help with creating crafts, either on your own or at our weekly crafting sessions. Use your own supplies or help yourself to the many supplies/kits available in the craft room off the music room.
- * **As you will see from a separate notice, our first**

*crafting session will be
 Tuesday, September 2nd at
 6:30. Join us!!*

Cookie Walk – bake cookies
 (Coordinator: Kathie Saums)

Jewelry – donate your old jewelry, costume or otherwise. Basket will be out soon!

Heart Ornaments – help customers the day of bazaar. If you're clever with lettering, we may need some help with that as well. (Coordinator: Jill Thorne)

Luncheon

- ★ donate food ahead of time.
- ★ help serve lunch the day of the bazaar (Coordinator: Dolly Hayes)

Set up – Help the day before (Friday, 11/21st) setting up the tables, décor, etc. (Coord: Sue Burns)

Clean up – Help after the bazaar. Move some items so they can be sold over the next 2 Sundays, take down some tables and chairs, sweep floor, etc. (Coordinator: Sue Burns)

**This is just an overview –sign-ups
 and details to follow soon.**

Please consider helping in some way. This is truly a day of wonderful fellowship while also serving as one of our major church fundraisers!

**Any questions, please contact Sue Burns at (860) 235-6637
 THANK YOU!**



Mark Your Calendar
Red Sleigh Bazaar Dates

Tuesday, September 2nd 6:30pm:

CRAFT NIGHT

Come join us in the Craft Room (off of the Music Room) as we begin our preparation for the craft and decorations table. We hope to have a planned craft, but you are also welcome to come with your own plan. It's a night of creativity and fellowship! We will be planning more of these soon--some daytime, some evening. Stay tuned!

Monday, September 8th, 1pm:

ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

This will be a check-in with the various booth coordinators, as well as a review of last year and a look ahead to this year. All are welcome, and we value your input!! If you cannot attend but have suggestions, please contact Sue Burns 860-235-6637 or via email: sebcpa@gmail.com



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

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 9th** 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!

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

LEGS OF STEEL, HEART OF GOLD

John Clark, 81, led 18 of us cyclists in his annual **Ride For Alzheimer** on this beautiful August morning for 23 miles through Stonington and Mystic. His solo cross-country rides starting in 1999 that transitioned to one-day events since 2015 have raised nearly a half million dollars! I was honored to ride alongside John, a friend from Ledyard Congregational Church.

Thank you to his wife, Donna, who works tirelessly to organize and execute this event.



Above left, Rob Burns, Donna Clark, John Clark, and Gary. Right, John Clark.



Photos and story courtesy of Gary Melanson.

Women's FELLOWSHIP

Grandma's Attic

We held a very successful Grandma's Attic in July taking in over \$1,600! Thanks to Dolly Hayes and Kathy Smith who continue to make this event happen each year. Thanks also to all the volunteers who helped with setup and cleanup as well!



Churchwide Picnic

We also sponsored a Churchwide Picnic on Sunday, July 20th at Bluff Point. Despite a gloomy forecast the day turned out perfect with over 45 people attending! Thanks to Leslie Stasko and Kathy Fletcher for suggesting the idea and then involving Faith Formations to put on a wonderful day. Thanks to everyone who provided food and to our cooks, Ken Burger and Aric Wellman.

Our Annual Summer Meeting

Our annual meeting was held on Tuesday, August 19th at Jill Thorne's home. Our annual meeting had traditionally been held at Janet



Barnett's Long Pond cottage for many years and we were especially missing her along with all the other women who have been such integral members of our

congregation. Here is a brief summary of our meeting from Jill Thorne.

Although we are making several changes in the structure and organization of Women's Fellowship, we are planning to hold some of our traditions. It had been suggested that we consider becoming an All Church Fellowship, which would require suspending our Women's Fellowship By-laws. For this year at least, we will not do exactly that, but rather have a committee to review the by-laws, as well as looking for opportunities to have All Church programs some of the time.

•Our next meeting will be on Thursday (not Tuesday) September 25, organized by Sara Holdridge. It will be a Signing and Singing meeting in which we will learn a lot about sign language. It will be an all-church meeting. See more detail below.

•We have several events that have become traditions that we wish to continue:

•Sue Burns will again be chairing the Red Sleigh Bazaar in November.

•We plan to fill both Fall and Spring baskets for people on our visiting list; these programs will take place in appropriate months.

•We plan to have a Christmas Open House in December.

•We will continue to have luncheons, certainly in the months that we do not have another program, but possibly more often, since we all love to eat and talk!

•We are targeting perhaps as many as three more programs that would be appropriate for All Church invitations.

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.

**Thursday, September 25th
Signing and Singing with Claire
7 PM Fellowship Hall**



Claire will tell us of her life long interest in ASL (American Sign Language). She will teach us to sign some familiar songs.

This is open to everyone who would like to learn something new, have a good time, and enjoy a snack.

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!

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 these videos.

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL6VgfHt6zEy7n42hGl14bEcQh85cbqa6>



SEPTEMBER PANCAKE BREAKFAST

In Celebration of 300 Years of
Ledyard Congregational Church
and 300 years of our Community!

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!**

There are plenty of exciting activities planned for the upcoming year including the reenactment of the Bill Dinner on Saturday, September 20th!

More information on all the planned events will be available at the breakfast. Hope to see you there.

All donations will help defray the costs of all our anniversary activities!

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 6TH
IN FELLOWSHIP HALL
FROM 7:30-10:00 A.M.**



Confirmation Class

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

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



It's September 1725. The residents of the northern part of Groton are busy beginning the harvest, getting in wood for the winter, and wondering if their petition will be granted. Three men sent by the General Assembly have been gathering information, checking distances and asking financial questions. They aren't saying what their report and recommendation will be, but they are being pleasant and thorough. We hope we'll get good news next month and will be able to begin setting up an ecclesiastical society before winter, making plans for a new church closer to home.

This is not a new community, but we're scattered around the area. The Allyn's have been living along the river at Allyn's Point for almost 75 years. At first, of course, services were in New London, which was almost as easy for them as getting to Groton, at least in good boating weather. Farther from the water, the Geers, Morgans, Averys and others have been here almost as long and are well established, and more families have arrived since then.

The Revolutionary War is a half century in the future and our residents are subjects of the king of England, although Connecticut already possesses more independence than most colonies, electing their own governor and generally running their own affairs. This freedom does not extend to religion, as Connecticut recognizes the Congregational Church as the official church, and regulates the establishment of new parishes. If we receive permission for an ecclesiastical society, it will have the responsibility of finding a minister and building a meetinghouse, and will have the right to tax the population for those expenses.

Let's leap forward to 2025, the 300th anniversary of that time. We are about to begin a year of celebration of those events in 1725 and the decision that resulted in a new church as well as the society that became Ledyard many years later. The opening event will bring back a tradition from much later in our history, a "Bill Dinner," which was THE social event in town annually for at least 4 decades, starting in 1897 when the new library building was dedicated. Bill dinners traditionally involved a clam chowder dinner, then music and historical lectures, etc. in the meetinghouse.

Join us at **Holdridge Pavilion on Saturday, September 20, at 1 p.m.,**

as we celebrate with a meal of chowder, sandwiches and dessert, followed by period music and a retelling of North Groton's part in the Battle of Fort Griswold, a Revolutionary War event close to home.

Carol Ganz, LCC Church Historian



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, September 6th
Will be in celebration of LCC's 300th anniversary

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.

ALL ARE WELCOME!



FIRST AID KITS

We'd like everyone to be aware 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 in the kitchen with a sign above it.

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.



Small Group Circle Ministry

The groups will commence in September 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.



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



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.

LCC Women's Fellowship Writing Group

Every
MONDAY 9:30 to
11:00 A.M.!

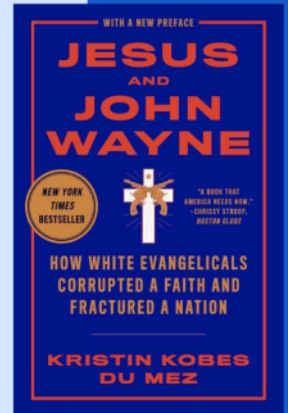


We will discuss writing ideas, have time to write, and have time to share ideas. No matter race, creed, gender, or identity - we welcome you to enjoy a free space to create and share. All are welcome!

 In the Holdridge Library at
Ledyard Congregational Church
722 Colonel Ledyard Highway, Ledyard CT 06339

ANNOUNCEMENT!

**THE GROUP IS ON
HIATUS AND WILL
RESUME ON SEPTEMBER
10TH 2025. OUR NEW
BOOK IS "JESUS AND
JOHN WAYNE" BY
KRISTIN KOBES DU MEZ.**



Prayer Vigil September 25 5:30-6:00 p.m.

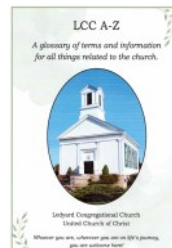
When you've been feeling overwhelmed, what can you do? The Bible encourages us to come together in prayer for wisdom, for discernment, for comfort. "For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them." Matthew 18:20. In September we will gather in prayer to seek God's guidance and wisdom for the role of our Church in promoting the flourishing of all creation.

Prayer Vigils will continue on the fourth Thursday of each month. Drop in anytime between 5:30-6:00 p.m. and stay for as long as you want.

All are welcome!

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 (fraugurusan@yahoo.com).



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



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.



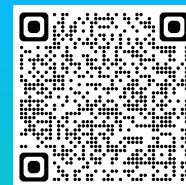
Project Grants In Memory of Janet Barnett



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

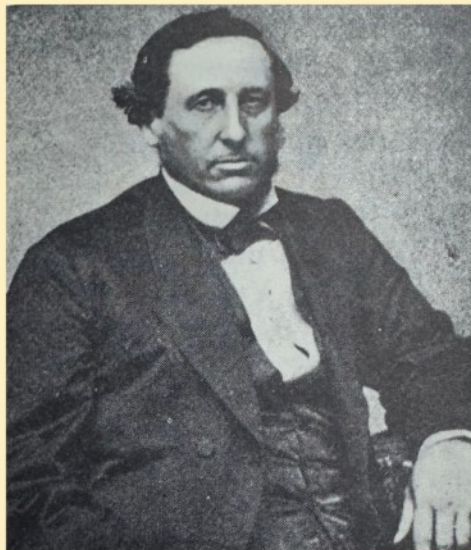
Lisa Ann Curtis at [860-823-9603](tel:860-823-9603)

lisaanncurtis@yahoo.com.



LEDYARD HISTORY DAY

Join Us for the 2nd Annual Ledyard History Day Event!



CELEBRATE LEDYARD'S RICH PAST AT HISTORY DAY HOSTED BY THE LEDYARD PUBLIC LIBRARY! LOCAL MUSEUMS AND HISTORICAL ORGANIZATIONS WILL BE ON-SITE WITH FASCINATING DISPLAYS AND EXHIBITS THROUGHOUT THE DAY.

THIS FREE, FAMILY-FRIENDLY EVENT IS A GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO EXPLORE OUR LOCAL HERITAGE AND CONNECT WITH THE COMMUNITY. DON'T MISS IT!



Saturday, October 5 • 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM
Bill Library | 718 Colonel Ledyard Hwy,
Ledyard, CT | 860-464-9912



Join us for
**FAMILY
CHIME
TIME**

We are excited to invite you and your family to be a part of Family Chime Time, our new intergenerational hand chime choir at Ledyard Congregational Church! This is a wonderful opportunity to make music together, strengthen our community, and share the joy of worship in a fun and engaging way.

Who can join?

All ages are welcome! Families, individuals, and friends from our congregation—no prior experience required.

This is a perfect way to connect across generations, so bring your kids, your grandparents, or anyone else who loves to make joyful noise!

When do we rehearse?

Most Sundays directly after worship.

Will we ring during worship services?

Yes! We will decide those dates in advance, sometimes by ourselves and sometimes with the adult HandBell Choir. Please direct any questions you might have to Bonnie Denton. 860.389.1862.


An illustration featuring school supplies like a watercolor palette, pencils, and a folder, along with autumn leaves.

September Community Supper

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

**Thursday, September 18, 2025,
our theme will be “Back to School”!
Come and see what our cooks come up with.
There will be lots of great foods to choose from!**

Supper will be served at 5:30pm.

This FREE supper is open to all!

**Come and sit for a while. Enjoy a hot meal,
conversation, and
community!**

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

An illustration featuring school supplies like a blue notebook, pencils, and autumn leaves.

Name Tags

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

(fraugurusan@yahoo.com).

Thank you!



Worship Readers

If you would like to be added to the list of volunteers to be a worship reader please contact Beth Smith

(fraugurusan@yahoo.com).

Thank you

To Women's Fellowship

Thank you to everyone for the beautiful card which contained so many lovely notes and the generous gift certificate to Hart's. I purchased several flowers and even some vegetable plants last June. All were replanted into hanging baskets or pots. It has been a delight to be able to look at all the beautiful flowers and even pick a leaf of Swiss Chard each morning for my eggs all summer.

I feel very fortunate to have been able to fill the role of chair for the last six years, all of which was made possible by the support I received from so many of you. I feel truly blessed to be surrounded by such a wonderful group of women, and the friendships which have evolved. Thank you! Even though I am no longer the chair of woman's fellowship, I still plan to be involved in other ways and look forward to working together as we plan for a new and exciting way forward while continuing, to hold onto everything that has made our fellowship a special and treasured time together.

With a grateful heart,
Meredith Schuft

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



Vegetable and flower plants I chose from Hart's vast selection!

*We are pilgrims on a journey, here together on the road; we are
here to help each other walk the mile and bear the load.*

Worship & Rejoice hymn #391 verse 2

THE BILL DINNER



Hon. Henry Bill

We invite you to become a part of Ledyard history by attending the re-enactment of the *Bill Dinner*, an annual event throughout much of our history.

Enjoy a traditional clam chowder dinner while celebrating 300 years of LLC and 300 years of the community, that later became Ledyard and hearing of our militia's role in the Revolutionary War and Henry Bill's gift of a library to the people of Ledyard.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 20TH 2025 AT 1 PM

UNDER THE HOLDRIDGE PAVILION IN

LEDYARD CENTER

THERE WILL BE A FREE WILL OFFERING TO PAY FOR THE DINNER



Church Chatter *September* *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**