

Church Chatter

September 2026

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

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A Message From Pastor Pat

September is a busy time for lots of reasons. The church is one of them! I hope you will spend some time with this edition of the Chatter and learn more about all the things happening here.

I want to highlight a few (You will

see information with specific dates and times in this edition of the Chatter).

The **Wednesday Night Book Group** will resume meeting on Wednesday, **September 16th** when we will begin the **KERYGMA** program. Kerygma is a unique Bible Study program for adults. If you have ever wanted to learn more about the scriptures, this class is for you! Over the course of seven weeks (from 7:00-8:30 p.m.) beginning on September 16th and running through October 21st, you will learn the basics of the bible. **Know Your Bible** is a foundation course for all other bible studies.

This class will be led by our own Marilyn McNaughton! A sign-up sheet is in Fellowship Hall.

Homecoming Sunday September 13th

If you have been away for the summer, or away for years, this is the time to come home. We will kick off the Sunday School year, too! There will be fun things for all ages! Our church is growing and it is very

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exciting! Our church School is growing! Come and be a part of it.

Faithfully,
Pastor Pat

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



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

Troy Hedman	Kyle Murphy
Tye Frazer	Oliver Murphy

*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!

*Ledyard Congregational
Church wishes the following
people happy birthdays and
anniversaries and a blessed
year ahead!*



September Birthdays

Carly Curtis	9/1
Tye Frazer	9/2
Molly Barnett Harlow	9/3
Kim Williams	9/3
Alex Dozier	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
Walter Conkey	9/26



September Anniversaries

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

*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

Our Mission

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

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!

September Scripture Readings

Sunday September 6

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Exodus 12:1-14 Psalm 149 • Ezekiel 33:7-11 Psalm 119:33-40

• Romans 13:8-14 • Matthew 18:15-20

Sunday September 13

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Exodus 14:19-31 Psalm 114 *or Exodus 15:1b-11, 20-21* • Genesis 50:15-21

Psalm 103:(1-7), 8-13 • Romans 14:1-12 • Matthew 18:21-35

Sunday September 20

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

Exodus 16:2-15 Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45 • Jonah 3:10-4:11 Psalm 145:1-8

• Philippians 1:21-30 • Matthew 20:1-16

Sunday September 27

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Exodus 17:1-7 Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16 • Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32 Psalm 25:1-9

• Philippians 2:1-13 • Matthew 21:23-32



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 months of **September**, the pantry is asking for **sugar**—any size bag! 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.

**September Blood Drive
Wednesday, September 9th**



Our next drive is scheduled for **WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 9TH** from

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

Having people sign up to donate ahead of time is helpful! That way we can be sure we have enough staff on hand to expedite the process. It's easy to do! You can call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767), visit RedCrossBlood.org, or use the QR

code on the poster on page 17. 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.

**Saturday, September 12th
Breakfast for the New London
Homeless Hospitality Center**



On Saturday September 12th, we will be launching 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 11.

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



**September Community
Supper
Thursday September 17th
5:30 p.m. in Fellowship
Hall**

Our September theme is **Meals from the Garden and Farm**. 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!

**Neighbors in Need Special UCC
Missions**



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

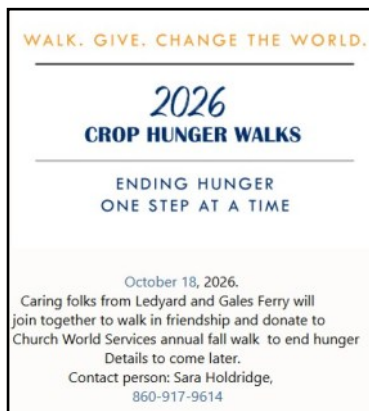
recipients across the UCC to fund projects that ranges from direct service to community organizing and advocacy to addressing systemic injustice.

Thank you for your support in this special missions project!

Gales Ferry/Ledyard CROP Walk.

SAVE THE DATE!

Sunday, October 18th



Watch for more information about this annual tradition, including the October Pancake Breakfast kick-off event on Saturday, October 3rd and other details in upcoming E-blasts and the October chatter!

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

September Pancake Breakfast

HONORING THE HEROES AND SURVIVORS OF 9/11

Saturday, September 5, 2026

Ledyard Congregational Church
Fellowship Hall 7:30-10:00 a.m.

Come and enjoy a delicious breakfast of fresh hot coffee, orange juice, pancakes, sausage, scrambled eggs, and chip beef.

This is **FREE** and open to anyone who would like to join us. Donations are appreciated to help support the Tunnel to Towers Foundation.

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

Hope to see you there!

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

The mission of the Tunnel to Towers Foundation is to honor the sacrifice of firefighter Stephen Siller who laid down his life to save others on September 11, 2001. We also honor our military and first responders who continue to make the supreme sacrifice of life and limb for our country.

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

Help Us Jump Start the Writing Group!

We're changing the day we meet starting in September—and we're celebrating with a fresh start!

Letters to loved ones, poems, memoirs, essays, ALL are welcome.

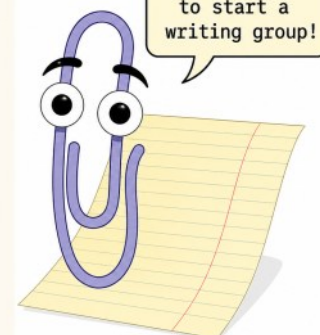
Come start the party with us!



Monday,
September 14
at 9:00 AM

Coffee, donuts, good company.
Chat and mingle, maybe write.
if we get around to it!

Can't wait to see you there!





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

I know it seems early, but It's time to begin thinking about The Red Sleigh Bazaar 2026! This is always a fun day for all, great connection with church family as well as the greater community, and a major fundraiser for our church! It does take a lot of participation, so please check out the overview below and see if there's a way you can help!

Handicrafts/Decorations/ Ornaments (Coordinators: Andrea Barbour and Karen Rhodes)

- This is the booth that we need to get started the earliest. Please consider helping us make crafts either on your own, or at our weekly crafting sessions. Dates and times for these workshops will follow very soon.
- * use your own supplies or help yourself to the many supplies/kits available in the craft room off the music room.
- * Suggestions: Christmas tree ornaments, decorated mini-Christmas trees, decorated wreaths, table decorations, dish towels, potholders, handmade jewelry, decorated gift bags, greeting cards, etc.
- * to the men out there: do you do woodworking projects?

Christmas ornaments? paint? work with metals? create jewelry? There are plenty of opportunities!

Bake Sale

- **Baked goods** (Coordinator: Carol Ganz)
 - * Consider shadowing Carol this year to see what's involved!
 - * Provide baked goods for the day of bazaar!
- **Salads** (Coordinator: Deedee O'Donnell)
 - * Deedee will need helpers for the Thursday and/or Friday before the bazaar. Even one 2 - or 3- hour shift would be very helpful!

Basket Raffle (Coordinator: Ellen Seeman)

- Provide a themed basket for the raffle. Suggestions for themes will come out soon, but you are free to come up with your own idea as well. If you don't want to arrange your goods into a basket, Ellen Seeman has offered to provide this wonderful service for us again. - You supply just the themed items.

Cookie Walk (Coordinator: Kathie Saums)

- Bake cookies. Large variety and amounts are needed. More info will be coming from Kathie via email as the time gets closer.

Pies (Coordinator: Jeanne Allyn)

- Come purchase one of Jeanne's amazing pies. Handy for Thanksgiving!

Jewelry (Coordinators: Karen Stockton, Ray Hasson, Kenny Brewster)

- Please consider donating jewelry you no longer wear, whether it is costume or otherwise. There will be a basket in Fellowship Hall soon for your donations. Drop off your jewelry anytime!

Heart Ornaments (Coordinator: Jill Thorne)

- If you're clever with lettering, we may be able to use your help.

Luncheon (Coordinator: Dolly Hayes)

- There will be a sign-up for food items we'll need donated, as well as a sign-up for people to help serve at the luncheon – both will be out closer to the day of bazaar.

Table of Treasures (Coordinator: VACANT)

- Help by soliciting items for this table and/or being at this booth the day of bazaar
- Please consider dropping off **gently used items** such as home décor, handbags, scarves, clean and safe toys with all parts, etc. ask if you have any questions!

Set up (Coordinator: Sue Burns)

- Help the day before (Friday, 11/21st) setting up the tables, décor, etc.

Clean up (Coordinator: Sue Burns)

- Help after the bazaar. This is an easy way to help and so needed!

This provides an overview and gives you many ideas of how you can help—more details will follow soon.

Any questions can be directed to the coordinator of the booth, or to Sue Burns (860) 235-6637 or Kathie Saums (860) 501-0239

THANK YOU!



LCC Church Calendar

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

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

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.



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 Sunday, September 6th.



**65 families need a home.
We need your swing.**

Grip it. Rip it. Roof it. - Fore the 65

- 📅 September 28, 2026
- 📍 Mohegan Sun Golf Club, Baltic, CT
- 🕒 10:00 AM Shotgun Start



golf tournament:

The Habitat Classic

*Monday, September 28th with 10am shotgun start
Mohegan Sun Golf Club, Baltic, CT*

65 homes are ready to be built! The families are already waiting and the land is ready. The only thing standing between these families and homeownership is the funding to build. Which is why we'd love for you to join us at the Mohegan Sun Golf Club... FORE the 65!

[Event Page](#)

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?"*

It was a busy summer as the **Social Justice Team** partnered with **Adult Faith Formation** in July to tour **Safe Futures** in New London, the **New London Homeless Hospitality Center**, and the **Hempstead House**.



New London Homeless Hospitality Center and Safe Futures Tours

The opportunity to see people directly responding to the needs of women, children, and the homeless, with dignity, safety, and respect evidenced Michah. We experienced first-hand what it means to do justice and love kindness. Something stirs inside you when you are in an environment that is set up to honor the dignity of all people with God's extravagant welcome. Upon reflection, the **Social Justice Team** and **Adult Faith Formation** are exploring hands-on ways to

participate with these organizations, and we invite all to join us.

Both organizations offer public tours and if you were unable to attend, you can connect with them directly.

New London Homeless Hospitality Center: [Homeless Hospitality Center – New London, CT](#)

Safe Futures: Deb Neuman at <dneuman@safefuturesct.org>.

Hempstead House Tour

Built in 1678, the Hempstead House offers an immersive experience of colonial life and the daily routines of the Hempstead family. Because of the extensive daily diary entries (1711-1778) of Joshua Hempstead, in addition to homelife, we also learned about congregational life, and the life of the African man, Adam Jackson, who was enslaved for 30 years by Joshua Hempstead. As this is a year of celebration and exploration of our own church history, visiting the Hempstead House gives us concrete experiences to add context to our understanding.

Hempstead House: [Hempstead Houses – Connecticut Landmarks](#)

Public Witness for Peace
Third Thursday of Every Month,
5:00-5:30

Our next Public Witness is
September 17th.

In June we initiated Public Witness

for Peace. Standing in the grassy area along the wall bordering the Rainbow House, we held banners and sang songs inviting all in Ledyard to join us in prayer and public witness for peace in all its forms: spiritual, emotional, civic, national, and worldwide peace. In July and August, we met again and felt encouraged by all the waves and honking horns of passersby. Public Witness for Peace will meet the third Thursday of each month, 5:00-5:30, followed by Community Supper. The SJT and Adult Faith Formation has reached out into the community to invite all of our friends and neighbors to join. We ask you to join us and share the invitation freely.

Artful Journeys: A People's History Tour of the Slater Museum and Norwich Public Memorials

Sponsor: The Social Justice Team

Organizer: Elanah Sherman

Date: Saturday, September 12

Time: 2:00 PM – 4:30 p.m.

Meeting Place: Slater Museum, 108 Crescent St., Norwich (on the campus of Norwich Free Academy)

2:00 – 3:15 p.m. docent-led tour of the Museum;

3:30 – 4:30p.m. driving tour of City sites)

In case of rain, we will retain the Museum visit and reschedule the City tour. Norwich is rich in the history of under-recognized but powerful people and movements. The Museum tour will feature

artistic representations of LGBTQ, immigrant, and Black history. The City tour, led by Elanah, will include public art and dedicated sites. One week prior to the program, Elanah will send out reading that will introduce key historical events and figures. Note: The day's activities could stretch to 5:00 PM depending upon how many sites we choose to visit. Elanah will prepare a list of possibilities.

Accessibility Note: Slater Museum offers good structural accessibility. Details (location of parking, bathrooms, etc.) will be provided closer to the event. Wheelchairs are available. Communication access (written material in large print, amplification, etc.) is limited. Norwich public sites will be chosen based on consensus of attendees. Please contact Elanah at [860-614-7200](tel:860-614-7200) or elanahs@gmail.com for more information.

Adult Faith Formation meets the Second Wednesday of each month at 11:00 a.m. in the Holdridge Library. Our next meeting is Sept. 9th. All are invited to join us.

Bible Study resumes Monday, September 14th @ 10:30-11:30 in the Holdridge Library.

Kerygma Program, Your Bible! The Study Begins will meet on Wednesday evenings, 7:00-8:30 p.m. in the Holdridge Library, Sept. 16th-October 28th.

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



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!



Our next **wheelchair accessible Sunday worship services** will be on **September 27th** when we will worship in Fellowship Hall. Enter through the double doors into the Hall. (Bill Library side.)



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, we thought it would be a great idea if our church could take on the project of organizing breakfasts on the second Saturday each month. Our Social Justice Team and our Board of Missions agreed to have this project fall under their umbrella, but we will need help from all of you to make this happen. We need food for about 50 people. There is no kitchen so it has to be "ready to eat". Suggested were boiled eggs, muffins, fruit, juice etc. Dates for this year are 9/12, 10/10, 11/14, 12/12. Our hope is that other churches will get involved and participate on the other Saturdays.

Let's work together to feed the hungry!

Please contact me the day before **by noon** if you have a donation [860-884-1502](tel:860-884-1502).

Thank you in advance,
Barbara Sorensen

Women's FELLOWSHIP

September Meeting
Tuesday, the 8th
7:00-8:30 p.m.
Social Hall

We will kick off the 2026-27 year with a **Welcome Back and Planning** meeting. 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 and a few suggestions. Other ideas are encouraged and always welcome as this is your organization!

September 8th Meredith Schuft
Welcome Back & Planning

October 13th Leslie & Ellen Stasko **Fall Cheer Baskets**

October 20th Sara Holdridge & Vicky DeFilippo **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.

November Luncheon Out **Would need an organizer**

November 21st Red Sleigh bazaar Sue Burns

December 8th Holiday Open House
Needs a Host

January?

February 9th Second Annual Tea Party
perhaps? **Would need an organizer**

March Luncheon Out Would need an organizer

April 13th Spring Cheer Baskets Would need an organizer

May 11th Annual meeting with Salad Potluck

May 15th Bake Sale during the Ledyard Garden Club's Plant Sale **Would need an organizer**

June/July Grandma's Attic 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!



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, September 5th
For the Heroes and Survivors of 9/11 All donations will go to **Tunnel to Towers.**

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 the organizations!
ALL ARE WELCOME. JOINS US !

From the Historian's Desk



Choosing Important Sites

On May 30, 1726, the Society met at the house of Capt. John Morgan to discuss the matter of siting a meetinghouse, but without success. "... not being on Said business well agreed the meeting was ajorned to the 5th day of September Next Insuing the Date here of."

On September 5, they dutifully revisited Capt. Morgan's, and this time they were ready to do business. There had probably been much discussion during the summer as they met to worship each Sunday. It is not clear where, or even if, they held Sunday services regularly during that time. In early May, they had hoped to call Mr. Simon Beckus of Norwich "for a quarter or a half or a whole year." He may have filled that role for at least a portion of the time, because there is no mention of a search again until October, but there is no reference in the minutes to a payment.

At the September meeting a concrete plan was laid out. Sargeant Richard Williams, Ensign John Dean, Lieutenant Christopher Avery, Ralph Stoddard, Jr., and Sargeant Joshua

Bill (Henry Bill's great-great-great grandfather) should find the center of the society "for a more Convenient Place to Sett a meeting house to the Satisfaction of the Societi." It is clear that fairness to all in their need to travel was the goal. It appears they took their time to be as accurate as possible, because they did not present their report until the following February!

It was also the custom in those days to establish official signposts or locations to post notices of important meeting calls and other news. At the September meeting three places were designated as official locations – the homes of Capt. John Morgan and Ralph Stoddard, Sr, as well as at Robert Geer's mill.

Ledyard History Day Sponsored by the Bill Library

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.)

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

Faith Formation and Sunday School



While Sunday School was officially on break for summer, teachers have enjoyed taking children to the garden, sharing stories, and making art. Behind the scenes, teachers have been busy planning for Homecoming and mapping out topics that will carry us through the Sunday School calendar.

SAVE THE DATE! HOMECOMING SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2026

Come one and all to Homecoming Day! Whether you attend regularly, or have been away for a while, we invite you to join us. We will gather in the sanctuary for Homecoming service at 9:30 a.m.



Children are invited to bring their backpacks to Church for a special blessing of

the backpacks before going to Sunday School. This is an opportunity to learn about Faith Formation Sunday School and all the wonderful things that we are doing at LCC. And of course, there will be ice cream during coffee hour.

Sunday School Groups

Children ages 4-7 will join Dolly and Leslie as they explore the many ways that kindness is an expression of God's love. Jesus will be an ongoing "guest teacher" as students engage in hands-on Bible based learning. They will learn how their faith can help them understand their emotions, be mindful of their actions and practice care and compassion for themselves and others.

Children ages 8-12 will join Lisa Ann as they engage with the many ways that faith touches their personal lives, learn about the practice of prayer, and how, through faith in action, they can make a difference in the lives of others.

Those 12 and older will meet with Anita and explore the many ways that they can engage with the community of church beyond Sunday School, connecting their passions and interests to the larger Church.

Nursery

Our nursery will be open at 9:00 a.m. each Sunday for children younger than 4. Vicky will help organize volunteers in the Nursery, and extends an invitation to anyone who would like to spend an occasional Sunday with our youngest children. Those of us who volunteer regularly can say that it is a joyful and rewarding experience.

Congratulations to Kristie who has moved on to a full time position and will no longer be our nursery attendant. We are blessed by the time Kristie has spent with us and wish her the best on this new endeavor.

Opportunities to join our Sunday School Faith Formation Ministry Nursery Room Attendant

We are accepting applications for a Sunday Nursery room attendant. Looking for a friendly and organized person to bring his/her passion for young children to our Nursery on Sunday mornings. Hours are 9:00 a.m.-12:00 noon. For more information reach out to Anita, armerando@gmail.com.

NOW HIRING

**Faith Formation Sunday
School Coordinator**

[Use this link for the job description.](#)

**Faith Formation Sunday School
meets on the 2nd Wednesday of
the month at 12:00 noon. Our Next
Meeting is Wednesday,
September 9th,
in the Holdridge Library.**

All are invited to join us.





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.



OCTOBER Chatter
Deadline is **TUESDAY,**
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.

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

Thank You, Meredith Schuft

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!



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!



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).

St Pauly Textile Shed



We are partnering with **St. Pauly Textile, Inc.** to host a clothing shed! Back in March, Jennifer Chase from St. Pauly Textiles, Inc contacted me about the possibility of LCC. hosting one of their clothing donation sheds. After reviewing the information and speaking with her, I brought the information to our Missions meeting. We reviewed the information, and contacted five organizations who currently host a shed and 99% of the feedback was positive! We then brought it to the church council and invited Jennifer to attend a meeting to answer all our questions. Following her presentation, there was a unanimous vote to become a host!

There is very little we need to do. All permitting is being taken care of and they will provide the shed and supply all the marketing materials. Our job will be to check the shed 1-2 days a week to move donations away from the chute. They pick up once a week and pay us 4 cents per pound of collected clothing!

We are penciled in to receive our shed on September 14th. I have lots more information so please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Meredith Schuft (802) 363-3808.
chrisandmeri@gmavt.net.

**September
Community Supper**

**MEALS FROM THE
GARDEN AND FARM**

Thursday, September 17, 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 the QR code!





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**

**WEDNESDAY
NIGHT
BOOK STUDY
GROUP**

7:00-8:30 p.m.

in the Holdridge Library

The **Wednesday Night Book Group** will resume meeting on Wednesday, **September 16th** when we will begin the **KERYGMA** program which will continue through **October 28th**.

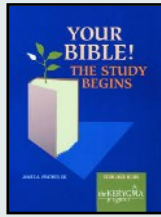


Kerygma is an innovative Bible Study program designed specifically for adults. Your Adult Faith Formation team put this study forward for all adults in the community of LCC. **Kerygma** offers a number of educational opportunities. **Know Your Bible** is a comprehensive introduction to the Bible.

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 will be led by our own Marilyn McNaughton! A sign-up sheet is in Fellowship Hall.

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

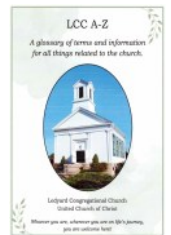
We welcome into full participation all who seek to follow Jesus, including persons of every age, gender, race, national origin, faith background, marital status and family structure, mental and physical ability, economic and social status, and educational background, to share in the life, leadership,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



*Thank You for Being Part of
CWS Blankets*

Dear Friend,

As we prepare for another Blanket season, I want to begin with two simple words. **Thank you!**

Because of the generosity of congregations like yours, CWS Blankets are already being shared with organizations across the country as they prepare to care for neighbors facing difficult times.

This summer, blankets were sent to organizations including:

- Women's Refugee Center in Providence, RI
- Rhode Island Heaven's Care in Gonzales, Louisiana
- Food and Shelter Ministry in Norman, Oklahoma

From helping communities prepare for emergencies to providing comfort to individuals and families facing difficult circumstances, a simple blanket can be a powerful reminder that someone cares.

Your congregation helps make this possible.



Blood Drive **Ledyard Congregational Church**

Fellowship Hall
722 Colonel Ledyard Highway, Ledyard

Wednesday, September 9, 2026
11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

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



Scan to be directed to
RapidPass



**American
Red Cross**

The American Red Cross and Hello Kitty are releasing exclusive NEW merch! Come give blood Sept. 1-20 for a super-cute Red Cross x Hello Kitty collectible item, while supplies last!

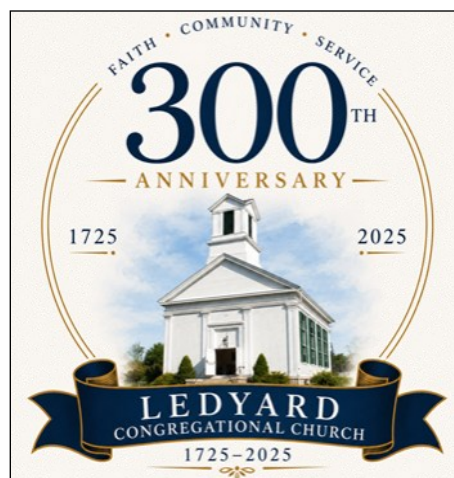


Scan to be directed to
Appt. schedule

Our blood can help ease the suffering of those fighting sickle cell disease. **Our blood saves lives.**

1-800-RED CROSS | RedCrossBlood.org/OurBlood | #TeamUp4SickleCell

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Church Chatter

September 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

September
2026



Time Dated Material
Return Service Requested