

Congregational Church of New Fairfield, United Church of Christ
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CANDLELIGHT – JUNE 2021

Hello Beloved Children!

We have been blessed by beautiful weather the past two months and are enjoying being outside in the Garden. While our sanctuary is serene, there is nothing else like sitting outside, feeling the breeze, hearing the birds chirping, and smelling the fresh air. And if Sunday morning is too challenging for you, come anytime and enjoy our space.

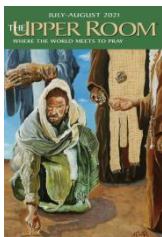
It was wonderful to welcome new members and visitors this past month. One family felt welcomed by our pride flags, another family was invited by one of our members, another person had been reading about us in the paper and decided to give us a visit. We plant seeds in many ways, I hope you will share your faith with others. In a time of confusion people are looking for hope, acceptance and peace. Maybe we can help and share God's love.

As we resume some of the activities of 2019 and earlier, I hope you will find time for the ministries of our church. We need each other and God needs us to come together to serve others in need. We do not expect any more than you can give, just don't sell yourself short, you have much to offer that God can use for creating the beloved community here on earth. Please call Pastor Liz if you have any questions. (cell 203-240-3325 or email pastor@ccnf-ucc.org)

Blessings and peace,
Pastor Liz

Worship Services

In-person services are taking place outside in our Garden Sanctuary at 10 a.m. each Sunday, weather permitting. For those unable to join us in person, we continue to livestream Sunday services on our YouTube channel.



The Upper Room

We have the latest Upper Room Daily Devotional Guide. If you would like to plan ahead for your summer daily devotionals with the July/August copy, feel free to pick one up at our side entrance mailbox. If you need one mailed to you, please let us know. I will reserve one for you for the forthcoming editions if you are not on our list right now. We hope this resource is meaningful to you.

CCNF has begun interviewing for a Faith Formation Director. Responsibilities include working with the pastor and the Faith Formation Team to oversee and operate a small but evolving program of Christian faith formation for grades K-8, in addition to offering support to our middle/high school youth. This is a part-time position, with a minimum of 2-3 hours on Sunday mornings mandatory; a few evenings and some office hours, with flexibility. For more information email faithformation@ccnf-ucc.org.



We have welcomed several new members to the congregation recently! On Sunday, May 23, Jane Terlizzi and Stephanie Shaughnessy joined CCNF, and on Sunday, June 13, Matt and Tori Cooke, Jessica Carretta, and Jesse Schmid joined CCNF. Welcome!



CONFIRMATION

Sunday, June 6 was Confirmation Sunday, when Ashton Albert, Pia DeLuca, Anya Gentry, Zachary Hubert and Evan Lovejoy were all confirmed. Congratulations to them and their families!

At left, our confirmands are addressed by Pastor Liz.

SERVICE OPPORTUNITY!



The Benches are coming....

After a very long delay and time spent in manufacturing, our new benches for the outdoor Garden have shipped! They are expected to arrive this **Wednesday, June 30th**. Ten volunteers will be needed to help do the simple assembly on Wednesday or Thursday evening. No special skills are needed. Please sign up at the welcome table.



USHERS!

And if you are called to serve in a different way, consider serving your fellow church members this summer as an usher/welcomer for our Sunday services. Contact Pastor Liz to sign up for an upcoming Sunday.



Remember to sign up as far in advance as possible. We will happily send you a reminder email during the week before your chosen Sunday(s).



FAITH FORMATION NEWS

We wrapped up another year of Christian education for our youth on Sunday, June 20, with a cool summer surprise - a visit from an ice cream truck!

Thank you to the Faith Formation team for a safe and successful year of Church School!



I scream, you scream, we all scream for ice cream!

A nice variety of treats were available from the ice cream truck, to the delight of all. At left, Isabelle shows off her colorful snow cone with help from her dad, Matt, while Anna and Olivia enjoy some character-based ice cream treats.



The cool summer surprise was a success!

We used Jason's Ice Cream for this event. He was very accommodating and had a delicious selection of treats for us to enjoy. www.jasonsicecream.com, jason@jasonsicecream.com, 203-510-2290.

STEWARDSHIP: What it means to Betsy Chatterton Schalkham

CCNF is open and welcoming to anyone who attends our services. Pastor Liz has an open door policy and is always available. She has brought so much love and warmth to us by sharing her gifts of love,

empathy, abundance of time and heartfelt support. We as a congregation are blessed by her leadership and in this crazy world, I feel it is God working through Liz to us as we each reach out to others with many blessings of love.



We support our local community as well as others by our outreach programs ie: food bank, holiday baskets, flowers to shut-ins, back-to-school drive, Christmas gifts to children and families in need, pet blessing, thrift shop, volunteer work at Dorothy Day, ASP trips and others. Our Sunday School program and youth activities provide a safe and loving community for our children to learn about Jesus and His ways of living.

Even though I reside in Florida now, it is always a pleasure to join online services (what a gift COVID-19 has given me!) and when I return home to New Fairfield I experience incredible joy when I am able to attend "live" services. I volunteer to help when needed as I continue to try to "give back."

My father, Richard Chatterton, managed the building committee of this new church on the hill. My Nana was involved in Sunday School, my mother, Charlotte Chatterton, sang in the choir and served on various committees. I was baptized, confirmed and married here and when the good Lord takes me home, I hope to be celebrated and remembered here at CCNF. I sang in Junior Choir, Sr. Choir, worked on the outdoor garden committee with Rev. Polk, and served on the Worship and Ministry Team for many years. It's an honor to support a church that has provided so much love, support and wonderful experiences for me throughout my entire life. And I know there are many others of you who have been just as fortunate as me.

Stewardship is spending time, money and energy focused on making the world better and taking care of the people and things important to them.

For me being on the Worship and Ministry team opened my eyes to stewardship. I worked with the pastor and others to arrange services, etc., but more importantly I learned and understood why our contributions are so important. We pay basic bills such as electric, heat, garbage, etc., to maintain the building, pastor, choir director salaries, as well as outreach to our community and beyond. Stewardship is also offering our time and talents and giving back the love that we all have received at CCNF. In closing I ask a question of you. "What would your life be without Liz and our church community here at CCNF?"

Written with love,

Betsy Chatterton Schalkham
on behalf of the Stewardship Team



MISSIONS MOMENT – Silver Lake Conference Center

CCNF youth have attended Silver Lake Conference Center summer camp and other programs for many years. We have been able to offer scholarships and also support the conference center through your gifts and our budget. Their Mission statement aligns with ours!

Silver Lake Conference Center, a year round outdoor ministry of the Southern New England Conference of the United Church of Christ, is called to covenant with God and with the churches and people of the conference in the work of forming life-sustaining leaders for the church and the world, by offering:

Experiences of inclusive and nurturing Christian community

Opportunities to grow and participate as Christ's disciples

A model of sustainable environmental stewardship of God's world.

We worship, learn, play, serve, and work together, respecting the right of private judgement. We seek to provide a safe environment of acceptance regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, or sexual orientation, reflecting our unity in Christ and respecting the faith journeys of all of God's children.



There is information about their conference center below.

From their website: <https://www.silverlakect.org/about> Silver Lake was founded in 1957, the same year the United Church of Christ was formed. The historic Connecticut Conference of the UCC, then known as the Missionary Society of Connecticut, purchased the property in Sharon, which had been Camp Easton for boys, to be the summer camp site for the

Connecticut churches.

Before this land was a summer camp, before the Europeans arrived on Turtle Island, this land was stewarded by the Mahican tribe, an Eastern Woodland Algonquin-speaking tribe. Read more about the Native History of Silver Lake at <https://www.silverlakect.org/land>

Silver Lake welcomed our first conferees (campers) to the first series of summer conferences (camp programs) in the years that followed. In the 1960s and 1970s, four winterized retreat buildings were built, allowing Silver Lake to host church retreats in the fall, winter, and spring, and to expand our summer conference offerings.

Today, Silver Lake hosts close to 1,000 young people each summer and more than 3,000 retreat participants in the off-season. In addition to groups from Southern New England UCC churches, we regularly offer retreat space to other Christian denominations, Jewish groups, school groups, and hobbyists. Our summer program is open to all, regardless of race, ethnicity, gender identification, or sexual orientation.



No matter where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.

Blessings from your Mission Team



NF FOOD PANTRY –

The Food Pantry will return to the Senior Center as of July 1st. We will have final distributions here at church on **Thursday, June, 24** and **Saturday, June 26**, and will accept final Food Pantry donations from **9 to 11 a.m.** on those mornings. Donations received at the church that are not distributed this week will help restock the Food Pantry shelves at the Senior Center.

Our Wednesday bagging went very well during our time as the Food Pantry location. Thank you to **Kelsey Finlay, Christian Slomba, Dan Milovic and the Carey family; and to Gretchen Skidmore**, who prepared the 'shopping list' from which our volunteers worked to bag the groceries.

Thank you to all those who have made contributions to our pantry! We are so grateful for all the ways people have shared their resources. And the opportunity to contribute will continue:

After the Food Pantry relocates, we will continue to serve our neighbors in need by providing items that are not covered by SNAP and the Food Pantry. We will be offering bundles on a monthly basis of the following items: **diapers and wipes, pet food, cleaning supplies, and personal hygiene items** Starting in July, items for our bundles may be dropped off at church during office hours, Tuesdays - Fridays, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

The bagging **Service Opportunity** will change. Instead of weekly bagging, we will need volunteers to come and **Bundle** items monthly, on the Thursday afternoon before each monthly Saturday distribution.

If you are interested, want to sign up or have questions, please email missions@ccnf-ucc.org.



*Serving at
Dorothy Day*

DOROTHY DAY HOSPITALITY HOUSE

We are serving at Dorothy Day on the fourth Wednesday of each month. Our next day will be July 28. We will meet at the kitchen at 1:30 to start bagging the meals. We will also be serving a hot meal to go. We have a limited number of volunteers who can work so please let us know if you would like to help. We are normally finished between 4 -4:30pm.

Serving at Dorothy Day is a wonderful way to be the hands and feet of Christ, serving those in need. If you have any questions or would like some more information, please contact Pastor Liz. pastor@ccnf-ucc.org

SAVE THE DATE!! FOLK FEST IN THE GARDEN!

**Sunday, July 18th 3-5pm
outside in our Garden space.**

Come and listen, come and sing along, relax and enjoy! Free event, bring a friend. More details to follow.



Upcoming meetings and Events

Sun, June 27, 10 a.m.	Book of Remembrance Sunday
Tue, June 29	Candlelight articles needed
Sat, July 3, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.	Thrift Shop Open
Thur, July 8, 7 p.m.	Imagination Meeting
Thur, July 15, 6 p.m.	Faith Formation Meeting
Thur, July 15, 7 p.m.	Imagination Meeting
Sun, July 18, 3 - 5 p.m.	Folk Fest in the Garden



IMAGINATION GROUP



Our Imagination Group meets on Thursdays at 7 p.m. on Zoom. Each meeting, the group addresses a different topic important to the life of our congregation and brainstorms around that topic. If you enjoy brainstorming and are interested in participating, please contact Pastor Liz to receive the Zoom link and join in the process. We conclude the meeting at 7:45 p.m. no matter what - if there is more to be said, we will say it another night.

The next meeting will be Thursday, July 8, when we will discuss this question:
How do we initiate/expand Faith Formation for adults?

Come One Come All!!



We are grateful to those that have reached out and offered your gifts of singing and playing. We hope everyone will consider offering their musical talent in our worship. Please contact Rev. Carl Anderson at carl4music@gmail.com or call him at 203-654-1142.



NEW FLAGS FOR JUNE!

We have new flags on the front of our church building as we recognize Pride Month and celebrate our anniversary of signing our Open and Affirming Covenant. We welcome all God's beloved children, no matter who they are or where they are on life's journey.

CCNF THRIFT SHOP

The church's clothing donation shed is open and receiving your donated clothes, shoes, and bags. The Thrift Shop will be open on **Saturday, July 10th** between 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. The volunteers have



sorted and hung many great deals so check it out. Masks, physical distancing, and a limit of people in each room are required to be open.

*Thank you for supporting the missions of the Congregational Church of New Fairfield,
UCC!*