

Congregational Church of New Fairfield, United Church of Christ
20 Gillotti Road, New Fairfield, CT 06812
203-746-2865 office@ccnf-ucc.org
CANDLELIGHT – OCTOBER 2021

Hello Beloved Children!

I don't know if it is because I am getting older that time seems to just fly on by, but I am astonished. It is hard to believe that it is already October! But the darkness does come earlier and I have gotten out some blankets and a sweater, so in very tangible ways, I can tell autumn is here. Our activities have changed with the seasons too and we are an active congregation.

There are many ways that we are practicing ministry here at CCNF. The Bundles of Care program is up and running and we are serving families in need right here in New Fairfield. The Drumming Circle met for the first time here at church and 12 enthusiastic people came together to share the beat. Choir will be gathering for their first practice on Monday evening at 7:30pm. The Thrift Shop is a busy place with their twice a month sales. There is a constant stream of people dropping off donations into the shed. This weekend we will have the Blessing of the Animals worship service open to all in our community. We are ready to embark on another work trip to Appalachia this summer and will have our annual Sundaes Sunday Informational Night for those interested in attending or finding out more about our work. We had a very successful Work Night at the church on Monday, Sept 13 and work continues on the projects started then.

There are many ways to be involved in the ministries of this congregation and we encourage your participation. We are not complete unless we have everyone involved. Your gifts are needed and have a place in the church. I hope you will keep this in mind as you read about what is going on here. If you don't see your place right now, think about what you would like to offer and let's talk!

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. If you need help connecting, virtually or otherwise, please let us know in the office and we will facilitate getting help for you. office@ccnf-ucc.org



WORK AROUND THE CHURCH UPDATE

The Trustees and Brian Johannssen are continuing work on the project to have the asbestos tiles abated from the back stairway of the church and upstairs bathrooms. The abatement process has happened. Next steps are for the flooring to be replaced and the sinks and toilets reinstalled in the upstairs bathrooms. Until that work is completed, only the downstairs restrooms are available for use.

Many thanks to everyone who has been working on this project.

USHERS and WELCOMERS!

Consider serving your fellow church members this season 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

If you are a parent and would like to volunteer, please sign up ASAP; sign-up sheets are at the welcome table before each service, or you can send me an email. If you could commit to one Sunday a month we would only need four-five volunteers. Your assistance is greatly appreciated!

Please note that volunteers should arrive by 9:35 a.m. to help with set up, and stay until 11 a.m. for clean up.

Sunday, Oct. 3, the children will bring home a no-sew blanket to be assembled as a family. We will bless the finished products in church on Sunday, Oct. 24, before they are delivered to the dogs and cats at the NFSAW. If any members of the congregation would like to do one please see Lori Generali or email Faithformation@ccnf-ucc.org to get one.



ASP Informational Gathering

We are Appalachia Bound!

Calling all youth in high school and above who want to make a difference for families in need.

Come make a sundae & find out more...

Sunday, Oct 3rd at 7pm

Congregational Church of New Fairfield

20 Gillotti Road



Help us make homes warmer, safer and drier!

NEW FAIRFIELD DAY - THANK YOU!

Thank you to our volunteers who signed up to help with the CCNF booth at the second annual New Fairfield Town Fair Day held Saturday, Sept. 18: Marian Zerbi, Brian Johannssen, Nathan Johannssen, Karen Engstrom, Dorothy Milovic, Cille Grabert, Jackie Hutchings and Jeremy Hutchings. Keeping our visibility in the community is well worth the effort - some people have already reached out about becoming more involved with CCNF!

BUNDLES OF CARE



Our first distribution day was a success! We will be distributing again on Tuesday, October 5th. We will be offering bundles on a monthly basis of the following items: **diapers and wipes, pet food, cleaning supplies, personal hygiene items and snacks & juice for children**

Donations of items for our bundles may be dropped off at church during office hours, Tuesdays - Fridays, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Call the office at 203-746-2865 for help bringing your donations to the sorting area.

The deadline for requesting November bundles will be Tues, Oct. 26. Distribution will be Tues, Nov. 2. If you are interested, want to sign up or have questions, please email missions@ccnf-ucc.org.

Items needed for Bundles of Care:

Laundry Detergent **Dish Soap** **Sponges** **Garbage Bags (small boxes)**
Cleaning Sprays **Paper Towels** **Shampoo (10 oz. or smaller)** **Conditioner (10 oz. or smaller)**
Disposable Razors **Shaving Cream** **Mouthwash (small bottles)** **Tampons**
Toilet Paper

Call the office (203-746-2865) for assistance when dropping off donations.

The only food items to donate at the church are the following lunch snacks for kids:

Crackers **Cookies** **Granola Bars** **Juice Boxes**

Any other food you wish to donate should be donated directly to the New Fairfield Food Pantry - call Cindy White at 203-312-5669.



PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

The Prayer Shawl Ministry will meet Tuesday, Oct. 12, at 7 p.m.

Please join us to knit, crochet or loom and for some fellowship in the conference room. All ages welcome! If you craft, or want to learn, we can help you. You can make a beautiful shawl for someone, imbued with prayers for healing and comfort.

All you need to bring is: to knit -- knitting needles size 13 either long straight ones or circular; to crochet -- a crochet hook size K or N; to loom -- a loom (long rectangular). These shawls are a loving gift for anyone in need. For more information, call Dot Bass at 203-746-2855 or email dcbass@sbcglobal.net; or call Sue St. Hilaire at 203-778-1474 or cell 203-300-6220, or email sshilaire@sbcglobal.net. If you would like to request a shawl, please contact Sue, Dot or Pastor Liz.



*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 **October 27**. 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



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.

CHOIR PRACTICE RESUMES!!! We will gather in the sanctuary on Monday, Oct 4, 11 and 25, at 7:30pm.

CCNF MISSIONS TEAM: MISSIONS MOMENT

The Missions Team supports the efforts of local, national and even international organizations. From time to time, we will spotlight one of the organizations we support in these pages. One of the many organizations our church supports through Missions is the American Red Cross. As a host, we have served as a location for their blood drives pre-COVID, and continue our support by volunteering. We have supplied snacks, helped with set up and clean up, and greeted donors.

Mission Statement

The American Red Cross prevents and alleviates human suffering in the face of emergencies by mobilizing the power of volunteers and the generosity of donors.



The American Red Cross is part of the world's largest volunteer network found in nearly 200 countries.

- Every two seconds someone in the U.S. needs blood. It is essential for surgeries, cancer treatment, chronic illnesses, and traumatic injuries. Whether a patient receives whole blood, red cells, platelets or plasma, this lifesaving care starts with one person making a generous donation.
- Each year, an estimated 6.8 million people in the U.S. donate blood.

When you donate, and download the ARC Blood Donor App, you can track your donation as it makes its way to a hospital! Scan here to download the App:

Watch the church publications for the announcement of the next blood drive at CCNF.

Thank you for your continued support of the CCNF Missions Team! We couldn't do it without you!!



FISH

Friends In Service Here (FISH) of New Fairfield is being revived. For those unfamiliar with FISH, it is a volunteer organization that provides transportation for the elderly or the sick who cannot arrange for their own rides and drivers. Rides are provided free of charge by volunteers, although clients may choose to make a donation to FISH of New Fairfield at their discretion.

Do you feel called to be a volunteer driver? You must be at least 25 years old and have a valid driver's license. Proof of vehicle insurance must be provided, and background checks will be conducted.

Appointments are generally 1 to 3 hours. No need to wait around - you can run errands between drop-off and pick-up. You can set your schedule on a month-to-month basis. Interested? Email fishofnf@gmail.com to discuss becoming a volunteer driver. For more information, visit their Facebook page @FISHofNewFairfield.

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 for shopping on **Saturday, Oct. 2 and 16**, 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.



DRUMMING CIRCLE

Join us on the first and third Mondays of each month for a time to create a beat in fellowship with others. Newcomers are always welcome. We typically have an extra drum you are welcome to use. For more information please contact Jerry Gay (jerrygay78@aol.com).

"THE CHOSEN" VIEWING AND DISCUSSION

"The Chosen" is a multi-season online television series about the life of Jesus. We will start a hybrid weekly viewing and discussion group beginning Thursday, Oct. 21. Join the viewing at 6 p.m. and stay for the discussion, or watch the episode on your own and join the discussion at 7 p.m. The hybrid part? You can come to CCNF in person to participate, or you can participate via Zoom. Call Carolyn in the office at or email office@ccnf-ucc.org by Wednesday, Oct. 20, to let us know if you will join in person or through Zoom.

They are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season.

Psalm 1:3a



Dear Beloved friends of CCNF,

This year's Stewardship theme is "Rooted in Love." We invite you to read this thoughtful expression of faith provided by one of our fellow travelers at the United Church of Christ (UCC):

By Rev. Rachel Bauman, St. John's UCC, Wisconsin Conference

"Recently I was asked "why church?" by someone who had grown up without organized religion and wanted to understand why someone would invest their time, talent and treasure within a faith community. My reflexive answer, borrowed from St. Augustine, was "because our hearts are restless until they rest in God."

Raising an eyebrow my friend replied, "Even if that was self-evidently true, it still does not answer the question. Clearly it is possible to encounter the Divine Presence outside of church."

In struggling to explain, I found myself using the needs-based language I've learned through the practice of Non-Violent Communication (NVC). NVC posits that all behavior is an attempt to meet universal human needs. Explicitly naming the needs we are seeking to meet through our actions creates greater understanding between us. So, here is an (abbreviated) list of the needs I told my friend are met for me through participation in Christian community.

Shared Reality: As a community we believe different things, but we share an understanding that there is 'Something More' that gives life meaning beyond our individual identities and experiences. We share a commitment to following in the way of Jesus.

Self-Expression & Contribution: Church was where my leadership skills were first named, noticed and nurtured and where I was encouraged to claim and use my voice.

Effectiveness: Through church I am part of a collective body that has the power, through our actions and advocacy, to bend the arc of the moral universe towards justice a little quicker and more effectively than my individual efforts alone.

Challenge: Church challenges me to align my behavior with my values and beliefs, holding me lovingly accountable to being my most authentic self.

The list goes on: compassion, celebration, belonging, beauty, inspiration, connection . . .

There is no community that will meet all my needs all the time. But during this season of stewardship as I reflect on what value the church has in my life, I am grateful for how many of my needs are met consistently through my engagement with the United Church of Christ. And, equally important, how investing my time, talent and treasure in this community of faith provides the opportunity to contribute to meeting the needs of others."

Wow! Over the next several weeks leading up to Stewardship Sunday, November 14, 2021 we will hear from our members as we prayerfully consider how we are rooted in love and community within the shelter of and receiving spiritual nourishment of our beloved church and congregation.

Upcoming meetings and Events

Sat, Oct. 2, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.	Thrift Shop Open
Sun, Oct 3, 10 a.m.	World Communion Sunday
Sun, Oct. 3, 1 p.m.	Blessing of the Animals
Sun, Oct. 3, 7 p.m.	ASP Informational Gathering
Mon, Oct. 4, 7 p.m.	Drumming Circle
Mon. Oct 4, 7:30pm	Stewardship (zoom meeting)
Mon, Oct. 4, 7:30 p.m.	Choir Practice
Tues, Oct. 5, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.	Bundles of Care
Sun, Oct 10, 10am	Worship - Rev Carl Anderson preaches
Mon, Oct. 11, 7:30 p.m.	Choir Practice
Tues, Oct. 12, 7 p.m.	Prayer Shawl Ministry

Wed, Oct. 13, 7 p.m.	Trustees Meeting
Thur, Oct. 14, 7 p.m.	Faith Formation Meeting
Sat, Oct. 16, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.	Thrift Shop Open
Sun, Oct. 17, 10am	Worship - Bible Sunday & Baptism
Sun, Oct 17, after worship	Church Family Connection Picnic
Mon, Oct. 18, 7 p.m.	Drumming Circle
Wed, Oct. 20, 6 p.m.	Mission Team Meeting
Thur, Oct. 21, 6 p.m.	The Chosen
Thur, Oct. 21, 7:45 p.m.	W&M Meeting
Sun, Oct 24, 10am	Worship - Blessing of the Blankets
Mon, Oct. 4, 7:30 p.m.	Choir Practice
Tue, Oct. 26	Bundle of Care requests due
Thur, Oct. 28, 6 p.m.	The Chosen
Thur, Oct. 28, 7:45 p.m.	Executive Council

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