

Congregational Church of New Fairfield, United Church of Christ  
20 Gillotti Road, New Fairfield, CT 06812  
203-746-2865 [office@ccnf-ucc.org](mailto:office@ccnf-ucc.org)  
**CANDLELIGHT ~ DECEMBER 2021**

Hello Beloved Children!

Here we are making our way through Advent already! I can not believe that we are here. It seems like we were just outside, oh yeah, we were just outside! Church life is certainly different but it has been good to worship together inside. We are so happy to have the choir back and we are looking forward to hearing them live on Christmas Eve, barring any Covid crisis.

We had a wonderful group of people work on decorating our spaces during Deck the Halls in Pilgrim Hall and the sanctuary last Sunday. It felt so good to see everyone coming together at the Christmas trees.

We have an extra special service planned for Sunday, December 12th as we welcome the return of our Christmas pageant and worship service. Our children have been practicing and look forward to sharing the story of the birth of Jesus with the congregation. You know this traditional event can be like a miracle, always exciting and heartwarming. We hope you will be able to join us for that service and for Christmas Eve at 5pm. We will also have our annual longest night service on Sunday, December 19th at 7pm for anyone wishing to worship and remember in a quieter setting.

In all we give thanks for the blessings that God has given us individually and collectively as this congregation. We thank you all for your support through your time, talent and treasure. We invite you to share your ideas and comments about ways that we can be God's light in our community and world. Blessings and peace in this Christmas season.

Pastor Liz



#### **CHURCH BUDGET & ANNUAL MEETING**

Our annual church budget will be voted on during our annual meeting to be held after worship on Sunday, Dec 5th, both in person and simultaneously online via Zoom.

#### **Join Zoom Meeting**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86569875763?pwd=WjJOQVpxaFk5aG9YVmZIS1JyY3ltZz09>

Meeting ID: 865 6987 5763, Passcode: 586627

#### **Worship Services**

We will meet at 10 a.m. each Sunday. 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](mailto:office@ccnf-ucc.org)

#### **USHERS and WELCOMERS!**

Consider serving your fellow church members this season as an usher/welcomer for our Sunday services. Contact Stephanie Shaughnessy to sign up for an upcoming Sunday by email to [jjaowah@charter.net](mailto:jjaowah@charter.net).



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 see below for online sign up info. 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.

**Christmas Pageant Reminder:** Please have children at the church by 9 a.m. on Dec. 12 for a final run-through before the service.

**ONLINE SIGNUPS:** *There's an easy way to sign up to volunteer in Sunday School and to sign up your child to be the acolyte or read the Call to Worship at the Sunday service!* Visit

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0f4aa9ad29a6f4c34-ccnf>



*Hi Woman's Ministry and friends,  
Please join us for a **Caroling and a Holiday Potluck.***

*Date: Friday, December 17, 2021*

*Time: 6:00 pm for Caroling - Meet at Church*

*7:00 pm for Holiday Potluck at Irene's home*

*Place: Irene Howard's home*

*RSVP: [dgcgngbg@aol.com](mailto:dgcgngbg@aol.com) or call 203-746-9639*

*Please bring an appetizer, dessert, or a beverage to share  
We plan to carol at a couple homes and then head to Irene's.  
We hope you can join us to celebrate!  
Cille Grabert for Woman's Ministry*



**Gifts to Missions** – We will be giving Gift Cards as requested by the agencies we are working with this year. We will be helping families and seniors in need.

We need \$25 Gift Cards to groceries stores like Stop & Shop, Shoprite and NF Food Center, gas cards, and large stores like Walmart and Target. You may contribute any amount towards the purchase of the \$25 Gift Cards or you can purchase a \$25 Gift Card yourself. If purchased for us, please tape the activation receipt to the back of the card.

Thank you to all those who have given to the Mission Team. Your donation can be mailed directly to the church or dropped off during the week. Please note it is for Missions. You can also give online via the Give+ app to the Mission Fund. Thank you for your generous support.



## BUNDLES OF CARE: DONATIONS NEEDED

We will be distributing again on Tuesday, Dec .7th. Thank you to Marcia Semchyshen and Barbara Coehlo for helping with distribution.

We offer 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.

If you are interested, want to sign up or have questions, please email [missions@ccnf-ucc.org](mailto:missions@ccnf-ucc.org).

Items most urgently needed for Bundles of Care:

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

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.



## 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 been completed. The flooring has been replaced and the sinks and toilets reinstalled in the upstairs bathrooms. The walls have been painted. The next step is installing the molding this coming week. Many thanks to everyone who has been working on this project.

## PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

The Prayer Shawl Ministry will meet Tuesday, Dec. 14 , 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).

We also are making Baptism Baby Blankets. We use white baby yarn for these. If you want to make one, please bring a Size G crochet hook or Size 8 knitting needles/circular needles to the meeting Tues night.

For more information, call Dot Bass at 203-746-2855 or email [dcbass@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dcbass@sbcglobal.net); or call Sue St. Hilaire at 203-778-1474 or cell 203-300-6220, or email [sshilaire@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sshilaire@sbcglobal.net).

If you would like to request a shawl, please contact Sue, Dot or Pastor Liz.



## 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, Dec. 4 and 18**, between 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.





### “LONGEST NIGHT” SERVICE – December 19th at 7:00 p.m.

We will gather for our “Longest Night Service” to take some time to step out of the hustle and bustle of the holiday season. This worship offers a quiet time for everyone in the midst of the holiday festivities; it’s a service of music, reflection, candlelight and prayer for those seeking to find Christ at the center of their Christmas celebrations. Come, to be quieter, let go of the lists and demands of the Christmas rush and focus on the “real reason for the season.”

### DOROTHY DAY HOSPITALITY HOUSE

We are serving at Dorothy Day on the fourth Wednesday of each month. Our next day will be **December 22**. 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. Our first serving date in 2022 will be **Wednesday, Jan. 26**.



*Serving at Dorothy Day*

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](mailto:pastor@ccnf-ucc.org)



### Come One Come All!!

We are grateful to those that have reached out and offered your gifts of singing. The choir practices on Monday evenings (No practice Dec. 6 and Dec. 27.) in the sanctuary until January, when rehearsals move to Thursday nights (No practice Jan. 20). We hope everyone will consider offering their musical

talent in our worship. Please contact Rev. Carl Anderson at [carl4music@gmail.com](mailto:carl4music@gmail.com) or call him at 203-654-1142.



**American Red Cross**

### BLOOD DRIVE

The American Red Cross will hold a blood drive at CCNF on Monday, Dec. 13, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Another blood drive has also been scheduled at CCNF for Friday, Jan. 14, from 1 to 6 p.m.

**If you would like to donate blood, make an appointment online at**

<https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/donation-time> or call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).



### 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](mailto:jerrygay78@aol.com)).

### UPPER ROOM DEVOTIONAL AVAILABLE

The January/February 2022 edition of The Upper Room is available now in the church. Pick one up this month so you are ready for the new year!



**FISH**

Friends In Service Here (FISH) of New Fairfield is scheduling volunteer drivers. 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.

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.

Interested in becoming a volunteer driver? Email [fishofnf@gmail.com](mailto:fishofnf@gmail.com) to discuss details. For more information, visit their Facebook page @FISHofNewFairfield.

**Help is needed!**

Following is a list of tasks that need to be completed in our church. If you can work on one of them, please let us know. This task list is on the white board in Pilgrim Hall and is regularly updated as well. The Trustees have an enormous responsibility to take care of our facility. It is their task to oversee and manage these tasks, not to do them by themselves. Thank you for helping us! Details and information is available from any of the Trustees, Todd Lovejoy, Jackie Hutchings, Kathi Ellison, and Shane Cosentino.



- Sanitize the kitchen counters, stoves and surfaces
- clean the inside of the refrigerators
- change the batteries in the hand sanitizers
- replace the storm windows in the sanctuary and Pilgrim Hall
- cover and put away the standing fans
- assist with returning items to upstairs storage closet after painting and moulding installed

**Thank you** to **Brian Johannssen** for replacing the assistance bars in the upstairs bathrooms and to **Bob Ketcham** for replacing the 2 high hat lights in the sanctuary, hallway and conference room.



**Christmas Flowers**

*Help decorate our sanctuary for Christmas Eve Worship at 5pm.*

If you would like to give memorial flowers to be used to decorate the sanctuary for Christmas Eve, you may order them by Sunday, December 19<sup>th</sup>.

Please fill out this form and give to the office with money for the cost of the poinsettias, \$10 each. You may designate to take your flowers home after worship or to be given as a gift to someone.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Contact Number: \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

# of Poinsettias \_\_\_\_\_ Cost \$10 each. \_\_\_\_\_ check \_\_\_\_\_ cash

\_\_\_\_\_ I would like to take mine home \_\_\_\_\_ I would like mine to be donated

## Upcoming meetings and Events

Sat, Dec. 4, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

**Sun, Dec. 5, 10 a.m.**

Sun, Dec 5, after worship

Sun, Dec 5, 11 a.m.

Mon, Dec. 6, 7 p.m.

Tue, Dec. 7, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Wed, Dec. 8, 7 p.m.

Thurs, Dec. 9, 6 p.m.

**Sun, Dec. 12, 10am**

Mon, Dec. 13, 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Tue, Dec. 14, 7 p.m.

Wed, Dec. 15, 6 p.m.

Wed, Dec. 17, 7 p.m.

Thurs, Dec. 16, 7 p.m.

Fri, Dec. 17, 6 p.m.

Sat, Dec. 18, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

**Sun, Dec. 19, 10 a.m.**

Sun, Dec. 19, 11 a.m.

Sun, Dec 19, 7 p.m.

Mon, Dec. 20, 7 p.m.

Mon, Dec. 20, 7:30 p.m.

Wed, Dec. 22, 12:30 p.m.

**Fri, Dec. 24, 5 p.m.**

Saturday, Dec. 25

**Sun, Dec. 26, 10 a.m.**

Tue, Dec. 28, by 4 p.m.

Thrift Shop Open

**Worship -Second Sunday of Advent & Communion Sunday**

Annual Meeting and Budget vote

Confirmation Gathering

Drumming Circle

Bundles of Care Distribution

Trustees Meeting

Worship & Ministry Team Meeting

**Worship - Third Sunday of Advent/Christmas Pageant**

Red Cross Blood Drive

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Missions Team Meeting

Executive Council Meeting Confirm or Delete

Faith Formation Team Meeting

Women's Ministry Caroling and PotLuck Gathering

Thrift Shop Open

**Worship - Fourth Sunday of Advent**

Memorial Poinsettia Orders Due

Prayer Group Gathering

Longest Night Worship Service

Drumming Circle

Choir Practice

Serving at Dorothy Day

**Worship -Christmas Eve**

Merry Christmas!

**Worship - First Sunday after Christmas**

Bundle of Care requests due

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