

Congregational Church of New Fairfield, United Church of Christ
20 Gillotti Road, New Fairfield, CT 06812
203-746-2865 office@ccnf-ucc.org
CANDLELIGHT - JANUARY 2022

Hello Beloved Children!

Let's give thanks for all that our church has and the blessings we have been given! Sometimes that seems hard, sometimes we can only think about the things that are lacking in our life. Or the losses we have endured, or the ways we are struggling. In the cold air of January, it sometimes feels harsh and empty. But that is not the life filled with God's love that we are meant to experience. God's Spirit is present with each of us at all times. That can be written first on our gratitude list.

Writing a gratitude list is a wonderful way to focus on the positive aspects of our lives. It helps us to see more clearly the ways that God is working in our lives. We need to shift our focus to recognize and appreciate our blessings. Let me suggest a very quick exercise* to help you remember that... First grab a piece of paper and something to write with, now take just 5 seconds to look around the room you are in and make note of everything that is red. Then take the next 5 seconds to write all the red things down that you can remember. OK? Don't read any farther until you have done that...

Ok do you have your red list done? Now without looking around again, take 5 seconds to write down everything that you saw around the room that was blue. Hum. Harder right? You weren't specifically looking for blue and so it is hard to see! We can more easily find and remember what we are looking for, what we are seeking. So, take some time to look for blessings, look for things you are grateful for and your list will grow. It is helping me and maybe it will help you too!

Blessings and peace,
Pastor Liz

*Exercise from *Humankind: Changing the World One Small Act at a Time* by Brad Aronson

Worship Services

We will meet at 10 a.m. each Sunday. For the rest of January, we will not have in-person Sunday service, but instead will 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

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 jiaowah@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). When circumstances call for us to be online-only, you can still welcome people in the chat feature of our YouTube channel.



FAITH FORMATION NEWS

Our church school classes will be meeting this month via Zoom, beginning at 11am. Materials are sent during the week or can be picked up at church. Thank you for helping your child log on and participate in our time of learning together.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/91090877038?pwd=NGtwN3JjTkq5aW50R0VNSct6emhYdz09>

Meeting ID: 910 9087 7038, Passcode: 3xrWmr

If you are a parent and would like to volunteer, please sign up ASAP; 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 when we meet in-person, volunteers should arrive by 9:35 a.m. to help with set up, and stay until 11 a.m. for clean up.

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>



COMPASSIONATE CONNECTIONS

Lay Ministry Opportunities

Each year, we ask those willing to serve in Compassionate Connections to renew their commitment.

Would you like to Talk on the phone? Write a card? Drive for appointments? Make a meal? Pray the Prayer List?

Please fill out a Compassionate Connections card (see the end of this edition of Candlelight for the form) to renew your commitment to caring for your local friends and neighbors. Return your card to Pastor Liz Yoho or to the office. Thank you very much.

BUNDLES OF CARE: DONATIONS NEEDED



We will be distributing again on Tuesday, Feb. 1st. **A volunteer is needed to help from 11am - 1pm.**

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.

Items most urgently needed for Bundles of Care:

Laundry Detergent Dish Soap Sponges Tissues
Cleaning Sprays Paper Towels Shampoo (10 oz. or smaller) 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 typically meets on the second Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m.; however, **we will not meet in January.**

When we resume meetings, 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.

We also are making Baptism Baby Blankets. We use white baby yarn for these. If you want to make one of these, please bring a Size G crochet hook or Size 8 knitting needles/circular needles to the next meeting. 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 **January 26**. 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



Singing with the Church Choir

We are grateful to those that have reached out and offered your gifts of singing. 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.



**American
Red Cross**

BLOOD DRIVE

The American Red Cross will hold a blood drive at CCNF on 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 (that's 1-800-733-2767).

The blood drive held at CCNF in December was successful - 37 good pints were collected. Things are shaping up well for this January drive to be similarly successful.



SILVER LAKE CAMP - REGISTRATION OPENS ON JANUARY 15th!

Download the Silver Lake Conference Schedule and Brochure

<https://www.silverlakeect.org/files/content/silver+lake/silver+lake+files/slcrc+-+2022+summer+brochure-web.pdf>

SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE FOR SILVER LAKE SUMMER CONFERENCES

APPLICATION DEADLINE IS **APRIL 15**

Marcia Carothers, 2022 FEA Scholarship Administrator, shared the following information:

“Each year the Fairfield East Association budgets scholarship funds to help youth attend events that will help them grow in their faith, learn more about their church, and simply enjoy Christian community.

[Click here](#) to obtain a scholarship application for financial assistance to attend ANY Silver Lake Summer Conferences (SLCC) this summer - including family camp.

The exact amount of the scholarship offered varies from year to year and is based on several factors including the number of applicants as well as any special circumstances relating to an individual application.

How does it work?

- The camper goes to www.silverlakeect.org and selects their respective camp and registers. Campers MUST be registered in order to receive a scholarship. If the required SLCC deposit poses a problem, a camper can register without paying while awaiting scholarship help; however, they will need to contact the Silver Lake Registrar, Ruth Choate, directly at ruthc@silverlakeect.org.
- The camper completes the FEA scholarship application form (*found above*), which requires a pastor signature, and emails it to feascholarship@gmail.com by April 15th.
- Receipt of the FEA scholarship application form will be acknowledged by the FEA scholarship administrator.
- FEA confirms camper registrations with SLCC.
- Camper is notified of the amount of the scholarship award in a timely manner, after April 15th.
- FEA disburses funds directly to SLCC.

Please Note...

Silver Lake also offers scholarships (in addition to any provided by FEA). The Silver Lake Scholarship Application is available through the Document Center when the camper is logged in to his or her account.”

Don't wait until the last minute to apply for the FEA scholarship to Silver Lake - remember you will need Pastor Liz's signature on your application.

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 Jan. 22 for shopping from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Masks, physical distancing, and a limit of people in each room will be required to be open.



DRUMMING CIRCLE

We typically meet on the first and third Mondays of each month for a time to create a beat in fellowship with others; however **we will not meet in January**. When we resume, 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).

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
- clean the inside of the refrigerators
- change the batteries in the hand sanitizers

Thank you to Shane Cosentino, Todd Lovejoy, Will Anderson, Liz Yoho and Tracy Yoho for setting up the new office furniture and the 'new to us' donated Xerox machine and desk.

Upcoming meetings and Events

As usual these days, all Team meetings are held online. Worship services will be livestream-only for the month of January.



Wed, Jan. 12, 7 p.m.

Thurs, Jan. 13, 6 p.m.

Fri, Jan. 14, 1 - 6 p.m.

Sun, Jan. 16, 10 a.m.

Wed, Jan. 19, 6 p.m.

Thurs, Jan. 20, 7 p.m.

Sat, Jan. 22, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Sun, Jan. 23, 10 a.m.

Tues, Jan 25, 4 p.m.

Sun, Jan. 30, 10 a.m.

Trustee Team Meeting

Worship & Ministry Team Meeting

Red Cross Blood Drive

Worship - Baptism of Christ

Mission Team Meeting

Faith Formation Team Meeting

Thrift Shop Open for shopping*

Worship - Third Sunday after Epiphany

Bundles of Care Requests due

Worship - Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

*Masks must be worn and social distancing observed. Number of shoppers admitted at a time may be limited if necessary.

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

Please return your completed Compassionate Connections form to the church office or to Pastor Liz as soon as possible.



Name: _____
Phone: _____
Email: _____

I can provide:

- A Call
- A Meal
- A Ride
- A Prayer
- A Card

*Love one another . . . As I have loved you.
John 15: 12*