

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

CANDLELIGHT - FEBRUARY 2022

Hello Beloved Children!

I am praying that you are doing well during this continued challenging time for us all. Last year at this time we were hopeful for the benefits of vaccines and thankfully that has been a big help in the fight against Covid. But who knew we would still be battling variants and ongoing surges?! Thankfully our church is managing through all of this together. There has been much sadness and loss and yet we have much to be thankful for. Our hope lies in Christ, who is our eternal savior. We are not alone in our struggles as God is ever present. Please know that we are here for you as well, certainly not perfectly but we will try our best to help as needed. Feel free to reach out to me if you have any concerns.

We are resuming activities in person this month with the Drumming Circle, Prayer Shawl, Choir practice, and in person church school. We are beginning a children's bell choir that will be fun while our children get to practice their musical abilities. I can't wait to hear them play in worship! We will gather together after worship on February 27th for a delicious pancake luncheon to mark the beginning of Lent on Ash Wednesday, March 2nd. I hope you can join us for some fellowship and fun.

Blessings and peace,
Pastor Liz

MODERATOR'S REPORT

So the new year started with the resurgence of Covid, in the form of the more transmissible but less dangerous Omicron variant, and a return to remote church for us. Thankfully we return to in person Sunday services February 6, and I am hopeful that we finally can see the light at the end of the tunnel for Covid.

I am very thankful to be part of this church family that has had so many people step forward over the last 2 years. This has helped to ensure we can continue to do the vital work in our community that makes us the wonderful church that we are, because of our members.

The Executive Council has reviewed the year-end position of the church for 2021 and I'm happy to report that we are in good shape financially. Our Church functions best when we have many hands to help, and there are many open positions on our various teams so if you might have an interest, please contact Pastor Liz or myself as to what position might be a good fit. With all of us helping, the load to carry is not that much.

Meanwhile, just a reminder that various Teams Annual Reports are due to the office, narrative reports due by Feb 5 and financial reports due by Feb 15.

Brian Johannssen, Moderator

Worship Services

We will meet at 10 a.m. each Sunday. Along with in-person worship, we continue to offer the livestream of the service 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

Sunday School has resumed in-person meetings in February! Pastor Liz is looking for children willing to participate in worship by lighting our candles, ringing the bell and leading the Call to Worship. We are happy to work with your child so they are comfortable in this way to be a part of worship. Please let us know if you have any questions. The calendar is wide open right now. You can sign up online with the link below.

ONLINE SIGNUP

There's an easy way for parents to sign up as Sunday School volunteers and to sign up their child(ren) to be the acolyte or read the Call to Worship at the Sunday service! Visit

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

We record our children during the week while we are meeting virtually.



Children's Bell Choir!

We are putting together a children's bell choir and hope your child will join us. This is a wonderful opportunity for children in kindergarten and up to share music in our worship service. The first gathering will be after church school on Sunday, Feb 13th. Our time together will just be about 20 minutes and we will meet in the sanctuary. If you have any questions, please contact Rev Carl Anderson at carl4music@gmail.com or call him at 203-654-1142.



NEWCOMERS INFORMATION GATHERING

New to the congregation or just interested in learning about CCNF? Pastor Liz and members of the Worship & Ministry Team will be meeting following worship on Sunday, Feb 20th for anyone interested in learning more about our congregation. This informal gathering will be an opportunity to get to know others, talk about our congregation, the UCC, and what it means to be a member. No pressure, no expectations. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Liz or one of the

members of our Worship & Ministry Team, Liz DeLuca, Pam Schretzenmayer, Ron Webb and Stephanie Shaughnessy.

BUNDLES OF CARE: DONATIONS NEEDED



We will be distributing again on Tuesday, March 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:

Dish Soap **Feminine Hygiene Products** **Juice Boxes** **Razors & Shaving Cream**
Cleaning Sprays or Wipes **Shampoo & Conditioner (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.



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: **THE THRIFT SHOP**

Pictured below, in both pictures from left to right, are: Vivian Cacace, Maryann Gillotti, Lillian MacBain, Louse Stein and Dotty Norman.



Thrift Shop volunteers are a hardy bunch. Each week, you can find the ladies pictured above, as well as several others - including a gentleman, who particularly helps with moving full bags of donations into the shop area - hard at work sorting and organizing items that will be offered for sale in the shop. All their hard work has paid off over the years. The Thrift Shop has grown to several rooms full of good deals for shoppers, while clothing donations continue to pour into the St. Pauly's shed, keeping both organizations supplied with usable clothing which will continue to be used rather than going to a landfill. It's fair to say that the Thrift Shop is a success on many levels. Anyone who would like to get involved with the Thrift Shop should contact Dotty Norman or Maryann Gillotti.

ST. PAULY SHED NEWS

The team at St. Pauly reported that last year, 45,483 pounds of clothing were donated by CCFN to the St. Pauly shed. This is enough to clothe an estimated 8,379 people all over the world! And, that is a lot of material to keep out of a landfill.

And that's just from the CCFN shed. St. Pauly had a record year in 2021. They reported donations to all St. Pauly's sheds came to over 40 million pounds of clothing!



TRUSTEES TEAM

The Trustees would like to officially welcome David Perez to our church. David has been hired to join Ron Webb as a sexton for our church. David began work in January and handles some cleaning and most maintenance tasks around the church. We are thrilled to have David on board. Make sure to say hi when you see him around the church.

If you see anything that needs attention around the church, please let a Trustee know. You can email them at Trustee@ccnf-ucc.org and office@ccnf-ucc.org. We always have projects that need some volunteer help as well.

STEWARDSHIP TEAM

Many thanks to all those who have sent in a pledge to the church for 2022. As of January 31st, we have received 78 pledges totalling \$133,430. We are very grateful for your support and contributions to our congregation. Pledges are accepted at all times so do not feel like you are too late. Pledge cards are available from the church office if you need one.

Call to Share - We have begun a 'Call to Share' during worship each week where we have an opportunity to hear from each other. Everyone is encouraged to take a turn and share very briefly one of the things that is important to them about CCFN and why they give. This share can be done in person or in writing. Please consider sharing your thoughts with us. Speak to Katy Johannssen, Will Anderson or Pastor Liz to schedule your turn. Everyone can share and we look forward to hearing from you.



PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

The Prayer Shawl Ministry will meet on Tuesday, Feb. 8th, at 7 p.m. in the Conference Room at the church. Please wear masks and 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.

If the weather is bad, please contact Sue or Dot before coming out.



Southern New England Conference

United Church of Christ

Living the Love & Justice of Jesus

SUPER SATURDAY

March 19, 2022

The Conference's Super Saturday event is a full-day of skill building, networking and discussing best practices. The event offers numerous workshops, a keynote address, worship, a marketplace of vendors and ideas and an opportunity for church leaders, both clergy and lay, to network with one another.

You can participate for the whole day or just one workshop. There are many to choose from and they are a great resource for our church and members. Check on the link below to see all the workshops that are being offered this year.

<https://www.sneucc.org/files/tables/content/15280214/fields/files/ee3f531d2feb44bf81d6724cf326d0b5/march+2022+workshop+list.pdf>

Some workshops offered...After the Disaster - Discovering Wisdom and Resilience in a Pandemic World, Reclaiming Sabbath, Faith in Nature, Keeping Kids Safe, Theological Conversation for Dismantling Racism, Customizing Faith Formation, Churches in Transition, Creating our Church's Vision for the Future, Opening Doors, Living Life - Even the End "My Values, My Wishes, My Dignity", You're ONA, What's Next?, and many more.

Your gift of your time will be a blessing to our congregation, thank you for considering your participation in this educational and informative event. Let Pastor Liz know if you have any questions or would like to register for a workshop.



*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 **February 23**. 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!

Pancake Luncheon after church on Sunday, Feb 27th

It is hard to believe but Lent will begin on Ash Wednesday, March 2nd. Join us after church the Sunday before for a pancake luncheon in the spirit of Mardi Gras and Fat Tuesday. We will have time for fellowship and there will be a craft activity for families to do together.



**American
Red Cross**

BLOOD DRIVE

The American Red Cross will hold a blood drive at CCNF on Friday, March 25, from 1:30 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 January was successful - 43 good pints were collected. Sign up now to help make the March drive be similarly successful.

SILVER LAKE TO HOLD MAPLE SUGARING FAMILY DAYS

Silver Lake Retreat & Conference Center in Sharon, CT, will hold two Saturdays of maple sugaring in March. Families can register for a day of learning about the process from tap to table. Experience nature's renewal and its sweet gifts at Silver Lake! We will tap the camp's sugar maple trees, collect the sap, and boil it over a big outdoor stove as we participate in the transformation of sap into syrup. See firsthand God's gift of Resurrection in the coming Spring.

This retreat will be from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and is for all ages. It has tiered pricing of \$50/\$40 per person. Please note, Silver Lake requires all guests to their site to be fully vaccinated against Covid-19. Those who are not able to be vaccinated due to a medical condition or due to age may show proof of a negative PCR test taken not more than 3 days before the event.

To register for the Saturday, March 19, Maple Sugaring Family Day, visit

<https://www.silverlakeect.org/campsession/14954948>

To register for the Saturday, March 26, Maple Sugaring Family Day, visit

<https://www.silverlakeect.org/campsession/15809028>

CCNF THRIFT SHOP

The church's clothing donation shed is open and receiving your usable donated clothes, shoes, belts and handbags. The Thrift Shop will be open Feb. 19th 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 meet on the first and third Mondays of each month at 7 p.m. in Pilgrim Hall 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).

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
- change the batteries in the hand sanitizers



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.

Sat, Feb. 5, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Sun, Feb. 6, 10 a.m.

Sun, Feb. 6, 11 a.m.

Sun, Feb. 6, 5 - 7 p.m.

Mon, Feb. 7, 7 p.m.

Tues, Feb. 8, 7 p.m.

Wed, Feb. 9, 7 p.m.

Sun, Feb. 13, 10 a.m.

Sun, Feb 13, 11 a.m.

Sun, Feb. 13, 11 a.m.

Wed, Feb. 16, 7 p.m.

Thurs, Feb. 17, 7 p.m.

Thurs, Feb. 17, 7:30 p.m.

Sat, Feb. 19, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Sun, Feb. 20, 10 a.m.

Sun, Feb 20, 11 a.m.

Mon, Feb. 21, 7 p.m.

Tues, Feb. 22, 4 p.m.

Wed, Feb. 23, 12:30 - 5 p.m.

Wed, Feb. 23, 7 p.m.

Thurs, Feb. 24, 7:30 p.m.

Sun, Feb. 27, 10 a.m.

Sun, Feb 27, 11 a.m.

Wed, Mar 2, 7 p.m.

Thrift Shop Open*

Worship - Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

Confirmation Gathering

SHY Work Trip Training

Drumming Circle

Prayer Shawl Ministry Meeting

Trustee Team Meeting

Worship - Sixth Sunday after Epiphany

Children's Bell Choir

Confirmation Gathering

Mission Team Meeting

Faith Formation Team Meeting

Choir Practice

Thrift Shop Open for shopping*

Worship - Seventh Sunday after Epiphany

Informational Gathering for Newcomers

Drumming Circle

Bundles of Care Requests due

Dorothy Day Serving

Executive Council Meeting

Choir Practice

Worship - Transfiguration

Pancake Luncheon

Ash Wednesday Worship

*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*