

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

CANDLELIGHT - ADVENT

ISSUED Nov. 2022

Hello Beloved Children!

Blessing to you all in this season of Thanksgiving. As I write this, I have been thinking about all the things in my life which I am grateful for and the Congregational Church of New Fairfield is certainly one of them. I am so glad that we are working together on the ministries of our congregation and striving to further God's plan for a beloved community. Last Friday, diapers and wipes were given to families through Mother's Love. The Thrift Shop sent clothes, towels and coats as well and the families were able to shop. A volunteer from Dorothy Day picked up donated bikes for "Santa's Day". We have already facilitated the giving of 45 bikes and we have more to give. On Monday, we distributed Thanksgiving meals to 10 families in need through Mother's Love. They were also very grateful for the gift and help. On Wednesday, our group gathered at Dorothy Day. We made a delicious beef stew with noodles and served 98 hot meals and gave 90 bag lunches. We delivered the donated coats to the Shelter Clothing Program. Our children are working on dog and cat tied blankets this week and returning them to church on Sunday. They will all be brought to the New Fairfield/Sherman Animal Welfare. Our outreach to our community is so important and vital to our discipleship. It happens through the time and efforts of so many in our congregation and community. Thank you for all you do to participate. I know that this kind of giving is beneficial to both the receivers and the givers. The joy I receive from working on these projects is immeasurable and I hope you are finding the same to be true.

On Sunday, we begin the season of Advent. The word advent comes from Latin meaning 'coming'. We remember the people waiting for the coming of the Messiah 2000 years ago and how we also anticipate Christ's coming again. As we celebrate this Sunday, we will begin lighting our advent wreath led by our children. Following worship, we will decorate the sanctuary and Pilgrim Hall. I hope you will join us Sunday and throughout our advent season as we explore the themes of hope, peace, joy and love.

Blessings and peace,
Pastor Liz

WORSHIP SERVICES

We continue to meet at 10 a.m. each Sunday, now indoors for the season. 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

Special Christmas Services

Here is our holiday schedule of services. Please plan to join the congregation for our special Christmas services:

| | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Sunday, Dec. 11, 10 a.m. | Worship with Christmas Pageant |
| Sunday, Dec. 18, 10 a.m. | Worship |
| Sunday, Dec. 18, 7 p.m. | Longest Night Worship Service |
| Saturday, Dec. 24, 5 p.m. | Christmas Eve Worship |
| Sunday, Jan. 1, 10 a.m. | Worship with Carol Sing |
| Sunday, Jan. 8, 10 a.m. | Worship with Communion Service |



Moderators Report – November 1, 2022

2022 keeps rolling along, and as we enter fall and the changes that come with it, I'd like to look back on what has happened so far, and what is still ahead for our church. Pastor Liz continues to provide wonderful spiritual guidance, with timely messages that connect us to the mission and calling we all find in our church. And we were blessed with mostly great weather for our outdoor services over the summer and early fall and now continue indoors for the coming Advent season.

Summer saw the return of our Summer Play, with an awesome production of Peter Pan. Carl and Betsy do a fantastic job putting these shows together and provide a wonderful opportunity for the children in the community to experience performing in live theater shows. This was their 25th Summer Play, and they received a Proclamation from the Town of New Fairfield recognizing this great contribution they make to our community every year. In addition, it's also a major fundraiser for our church, contributing \$7,000 to our General Fund this year alone.

And speaking of finances, our Church is blessed to be financially healthy again this year, due to pledges and donations from our Congregation. Our Stewardship drive begins this month, and we would humbly ask for your pledges to be submitted in a timely manner. Give what you feel is right and remember that our Church thrives not just from your financial donations, but also from your donations of time and talent. Thank you for the support you can provide to our Church.

We also installed our new Nominating Slate, with several members stepping up to take on new roles on our church teams. There are many groups and activities that wouldn't be possible without our volunteers. I would like to remind everyone that the Congregational way is to keep all decisions local, but with local control comes the responsibility of managing our church functions and missions thru our various teams and by doing the little things that often aren't seen. We are very thankful for those who continue to serve our church, as well as the many new faces that have stepped up to join our teams. If you are interested in joining a Team please contact Pastor Liz or myself.

Respectfully submitted,
Brian Johannssen, Moderator



Would you like to provide the flowers for an upcoming Sunday service?

If so, please call Carolyn in the church office to choose your Sunday. You can also designate in whose honor or memory you would like the flowers to be, but that is not required.

The flowers are placed on the table under the cross in the sanctuary. They can be a bouquet in a vase, a plant in a pot, or an appropriate seasonal arrangement. And you can take them home again after the service, if you choose. Call 203-746-2865 to be put on the calendar.



USHERS and WELCOMERS!

Consider serving your fellow church members this season as an usher/welcomer for our Sunday services. Contact Stephanie by email to jiaowah@charter.net to sign up for an upcoming Sunday. We will happily send you a reminder email during the week before your chosen Sunday(s).



FAITH FORMATION NEWS

The new church school year is underway. Our children are enjoying learning about some of the important people and events of the Old Testament this fall, including Joseph and Moses, with more to come as the season progresses and our curriculum takes us to the New Testament.

This fall, we have also been able to offer Nursery Care, with Grace O'Connell providing care for the littlest ones during our worship service. The children are preparing for the annual Christmas pageant, which will be part of our service on Dec. 11.



CHURCH BUDGET

Our annual church budget is ready for your review. It has been sent to church members via email. For those without email, hard copies are available at the church office and in Pilgrim Hall.

If you have questions, please direct them to office@ccnf-ucc.org and they will be forwarded to the correct persons.

The budget will be voted on during our annual meeting to be held after worship on Sunday, Dec 4th.



We Need a Little Christmas!

SHOW RETURNS DEC. 3 - GET YOUR TICKETS!

This year, Irene Howard & friends are bringing back the evening Christmas show, which will take place Saturday, Dec. 3, at 7 p.m. Children from our congregation are already practicing for their part of the show. Everyone can look forward to carols and popular Christmas songs, presented by performers both new to the stage and experienced in musical theater. This will be a great way to kick December off in festive style! Reserved seating, tickets are \$20 each, buy them after service on Sunday or in the church office Tuesday - Friday.



SOUP SUNDAY FOR THE COLD MONTHS

Our first Soup Sunday of 2022-23 took place after the worship service on Oct. 16. The featured soup was Butternut Apple and it was a hit! We had another delicious selection on Nov. 20, when Soup Sunday featured creamy turkey noodle soup to get us ready for Thanksgiving. Looking forward, future enjoyable Soup Sundays are scheduled for the 3rd Sunday of the month during

the winter. If you'd like to share your favorite soup, please use the sign-up sheet in Pilgrim Hall.



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 19th.

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

REGISTRATION OPEN FOR NEW GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

If you've experienced the loss of a loved one and would be interested in a support group, please register for the new group that will be meeting at CCNF beginning in January 2023. Call 203-746-2865 for more information and to register.

"Grief never ends. But it changes. It's a passage, not a place to stay. Grief is not a sign of weakness, nor lack of faith. It's the price of love." - Unknown



COLUMBARIA NICHES

****SPECIAL PRICING UNTIL DEC. 31****

Reminder:

Through the end of the year, we will have special pricing for congregation members and friends on columbaria niche purchases:

Single niche for a single urn = \$1,200

Single niche for a double urn = \$1,800

Interment Service Charge (including plaque(s), opening/closing niche, and perpetual care) = \$400 for a single urn and \$600 for a double urn

These prices are substantially discounted from the current "going rates," so a little advance planning means saving money.

For information, please contact Carolyn in the office at office@ccnf-ucc.org or 203-746-2865.

SCOUTS REHABILITATE THE PEACE GARDEN

Scouts from Troop 42 were lead by Eagle candidate, David Trelewicz on the project to revive our Peace Garden after falling trees took out some of the benches and left the pathways in disarray. Now, sturdy new benches welcome anyone seeking a moment of peace surrounded by God's creation. Thank you to David for choosing the Peace Garden as his Eagle Project and all the scouts that supported him.



IT'S TIME TO

Deck the Halls

(AFTER WORSHIP SERVICE)



Deck the Halls!

Join us after worship, Sunday, Nov. 27th, to begin our celebration of Christmas. We will have our beautiful tree in Pilgrim Hall ready to add all the ornaments. There will be music and hot chocolate to set the mood. We will also need volunteers to set up the creche outside (bring work gloves) and the Christmas tree and windows in the sanctuary. Join us to help bring Christmas beauty to our spaces, and enjoy some fellowship.



BLOOD DRIVE REGISTRATION OPEN ONLINE

The next Red Cross Blood Drive at CCFN will be Monday, Dec. 12, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Appointments to donate blood may be made online at redcrossblood.org. Let your friends know they can donate here!



MISSIONS at CCNF



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 for shopping from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., on Dec. 3 & 17.

Our Thrift Shop provides a wonderful service to our community through the greatly discounted clothing that we offer. The proceeds from the Thrift Shop help to fund our budget for the church as well. Thank you to everyone who has been working so hard on this mission this summer.

Volunteers needed after church on Sundays. Just 2-3 people needed each week for about 10 minutes. Clothes from the shed need to be brought down to the Thrift Shop. It does not take very long but a few able bodied volunteers would relieve the work load of our dedicated thrift shop volunteers.

If you would like to help in the Thrift Shop, please contact Maryann Gillotti magillotti@yahoo.com

Added bonus for volunteers - you get a shopping discount!



THRIFT SHOP APPRECIATION LUNCH

These hardworking volunteers make a larger impact that many might realize. Thanks to their efforts, the Thrift Shop thrives and provides great options for shoppers in our community as well as supports the church budget. But it also encourages friendship among the volunteers and serves as a ministry as well as a mission for all involved. Most of the volunteers were able to gather at a Thrift Shop Appreciation Lunch at American Pie on Nov. 2. All in attendance left well fed, and planned to be back in the shop hard at work the next day.

WINTER GOAT DRIVE

We continue collecting donations of winter coats for men, women and children. Gently used, clean coats will be distributed to those in need in our area as we head into the colder months. Keep this in mind as you're changing over your seasonal clothing or upgrading your winter gear- you might be able to help keep someone else warm with your no-longer-needed coat(s)! Bring any donations of clean winter coats in good condition (no holes or stains) to Pilgrim Hall.



*Serving at
Dorothy Day*

DOROTHY DAY HOSPITALITY HOUSE

We usually serve at Dorothy Day on the fourth Wednesday of each month. **BUT** in December, there is a scheduling change, so our next day will be **Friday, Dec. 9**. We will meet at the kitchen at 1:30 and we are normally finished between 4 -4:30pm.

Many thanks for this past week's cooking volunteers - Elissa Leone and Colleen McQuade.

Thank you to Vince Bartolini who transported all the food and clothes to Dorothy Day.

Also thanks to our volunteer servers and food preparers at the kitchen on Wednesday - Debbie Blackman, Bonnie Lees, Will Kulp, Stephanie Shaughnessy, Liz Yoho, and first time volunteers, Sue Ann Newton, Adele Carey and Bart Carey. It was a wonderful day of serving, fellowship and laughs!

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

COOK NIGHT

We will meet at CCNF on **Thursday, Dec. 8**, to prepare and cook an entree for our serving day on the 9th. If you are interested in coming to help cook on Thursday night, please sign up on the sheet in Pilgrim Hall or let Pastor Liz know.

WISH LIST

Following is the current **Dorothy Day Wish List**. If you would like to bring donations of these items to the church for volunteers to bring to Dorothy Day on our scheduled service day, please bring them to Pilgrim Hall by Thursday, Dec 8, and let Pastor Liz or Carolyn know your donation is for Dorothy Day.

For the Grab & Go bags: chips, granola bars, cookies

To hand out: disposable razors, bar soap, deodorant, combs, toothpaste

For the Dorothy Day kitchen: hams, vegetable oil, hot cocoa.

For the Shower: Sweatpants and sweatshirts/hoodies, men's jeans (size 32, 34, 36), men's shirts, men's jackets, men's footwear (especially work boots), new men's boxer briefs sizes M and L.



THRIFT SHOP BOUTIQUE SUNDAYS AFTER WORSHIP

Look for the Thrift Shop Boutique in Pilgrim Hall after worship. The thrift shop ladies will be putting together at table of new items for sale. Do some Christmas shopping right after church and find some bargains. Look for them after worship on Sunday, Dec 4, 11 and 17. Do miss this!



ADVENT CANDLELIGHTING & SCRIPTURE READERS

We need children who would like to participate in the Advent Candlelighting and teens and young adult readers for Christmas Eve. Please contact Pastor Liz and share your interest.



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



CCNF Upcoming meetings and Events

Team meetings are held online.

Tues, Nov. 22, 5 p.m.

Wed, Nov. 23, 1:00 p.m.

Thursday, Nov. 24

Sun, Nov. 27, 10 a.m.

Sun, Nov 27, 11 a.m.

Tues, Nov. 29, 4 p.m.

Tues, Nov. 29, 7 p.m.

Thurs, Dec. 1, 6:00 p.m.

Thurs, Dec. 8, 7:30 p.m.

Fri, Dec. 2, 11 a.m.

Sat, Dec. 3, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Sat, Dec 3, 7pm

Sun, Dec. 4, 10 a.m.

Sun, Dec 4, 11 a.m.

Sun, Dec. 4, 11:30 a.m.

Tues, Dec. 6, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Weds, Dec. 7, 6:30 p.m.

Thurs, Dec 8, 4:30 p.m.

Thurs, Dec. 8, 7:30 p.m.

Fri, Dec. 9, 1 p.m.

Sun, Dec. 11, 10 a.m.

Sun, Dec 11, 11:30 a.m.

Mon, Dec 12, 11 a.m.

Tues, Dec. 13, 7 p.m.

Wed, Dec. 14, 7 p.m.

Thur, Dec. 15, 6:00 p.m.

Sat, Dec. 17, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Sun, Dec. 18, 10 a.m.

Sun, Dec. 18, 7 p.m.

Weds, Dec. 21, 7 p.m.

Sat, Dec. 24, 5 p.m.

Sun, Jan. 1, 10 a.m.

Thurs, Jan 5, 6 p.m.

Thurs, Jan. 5, 7 p.m.

Sun, Jan. 8, 10 a.m.

Cooking for Dorothy Day

Dorothy Day Serving

Thanksgiving

Worship & Baptism - First Sunday of Advent

Deck the Halls

Bundles of Care requests due

Executive Council meeting

"The Chosen" viewing/discussion

Faith Formation Team Meeting

A Mother's Love

Thrift Shop Open

We Need A Little Christmas! Show

Worship - Communion Sunday

Congregational Meeting

Confirmation Gathering

Bundles of Care distribution

Worship & Ministry Team Meeting

Dorothy Day Cooking

Senior Choir Practice

Dorothy Day Serving

Worship - Third Sunday of Advent

Compassionate Connection Deliveries

Red Cross Blood Drive

Prayer Shawl Ministry Meeting

Trustees Team Meeting

"The Chosen" viewing/discussion

Thrift Shop Open

Worship - Fourth Sunday of Advent

Worship - Longest Night Service

Missions Team Meeting

Worship - Christmas Eve Service

Worship - Carol Sing

"The Chosen" viewing/discussion

Faith Formation Team Meeting

Worship - Communion Sunday