

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 2023

Hello Beloved Children!

Blessing to you all in this season of Epiphany! This is a time when we celebrate the revelation of God. We took time this year to pick a Star Word. I wonder how you have engaged with this practice. Have you found your Star Word helpful? Do you use this as a prayer starter? As you may have heard me say, my word is AWARE. I have found this to help me slow down enough to be in the present moment. So often my head is swirling with things to do, I lose track of right now. Several deep breaths contribute to a better mindset for me. With ministry and church, there is always more that can be done, sometimes we just need to be. I try to be more aware of those around me, look for needs and issues beyond my own. And sometimes I find that God is calling me to be aware of myself... It is amazing how God can use this simple practice to connect and speak to us. If you haven't had an opportunity to get a star word, there is still time. The words and resources are on the table in Pilgrim Hall. Give it a try and see where it leads.

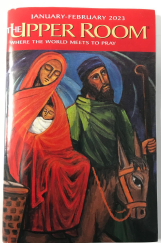
This month, on Feb 22nd, we begin the season of Lent. It is hard to believe how time marches onward. We will begin Lent with our Ash Wednesday worship service. This is an opportunity to come before God and turn over our lives to God in a new way. We give to God our confession and are freed from its burden as we are forgiven. Lent is then a chance to act and be in a different way. Some faith traditions suggest giving up something as a way of denying ourselves. Other faith traditions suggest taking on a task or spiritual practice as a way of growing closer to God. I think it is important to figure out what speaks most to you. There are a variety of choices and practices that help us on our spiritual journeys. This is not a new year's do over but an effort to deepen our faith or follow more closely to God's will for our lives. I would love to hear how you feel about the star words or spiritual practices that have worked for you. Share your ideas with others. Sometimes it is beneficial to mix it up and try something new.

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



THE UPPER ROOM

The bi-monthly publication "The Upper Room" January/February edition is available in the narthex and the hallway that leads to Pilgrim Hall. This booklet can provide a focus for your daily devotional practice and prayers. Pick up a copy if you'd like to try this format out - what better time than the new year to start?

The March/April edition will be available this month, also.

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.

FAITH FORMATION NEWS

The children performed in the annual Christmas pageant during the service on Sunday, Dec. 11. Here are some photos from the pageant:



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).

AND SPEAKING OF WELCOME,



CCNF welcomed these new members of the congregation in November.

Doris Zegley of the Worship & Ministry Team, Pastor Liz Yoho, and the newest members of the congregation are seen here during the Reception of New Members part of the service on Sunday, Nov. 13, 2022.

Please be sure to say hello to:



Greg Slomba, seen here with his wife, church member Stephanie Shaughnessy.



Priscilla and Monica Rocco, seen here with their children, Hunter and Reyna.



Megan Padovani, seen here with her husband, Davide, and their son, Matteo.



Jaye Anderson



Christine Cook



Elissa Leone



SOUP SUNDAY FOR THE COLD MONTHS

Soup Sunday continued in December with the Taco Soup by the Yohos and in January with Italian Wedding Soup by Doris Zegley. The next Soup Sunday will be **March 19th**. (See info on Pancake Luncheon, which will be the 3rd Sunday in February, instead of Soup Sunday.) Join us after the worship service for some soup and fellowship. If you'd like to share your favorite soup for a future Soup

Sunday, please use the sign-up sheet in Pilgrim Hall or speak to Pastor Liz

ASP BUILD YOUR OWN SUNDAE SUNDAY ON FEB. 5TH!

The Appalachian Service Project team will meet Sunday, Feb. 5th, at 7 p.m. Anyone interested in finding out more about this year's mission trip to Appalachia is cordially invited to attend. The ASP trip has made a difference in the lives of families in Appalachia by making homes "warmer, safer and drier," but also in the lives of the youth and adult team members who make the trip from New Fairfield in July.

Come enjoy some ice cream and find out more!





We Need a Little Christmas!

THE RETURN OF THE EVENING CHRISTMAS SHOW DEEMED A SUCCESS BY ALL!

Irene Howard & friends brought back the evening Christmas show in 2022, for the first time since the pandemic. On Saturday, Dec. 3, at 7 p.m. new and seasoned performers alike brought the spirit of Christmas to the Pilgrim Hall stage. By any measure, this show was a success! Proceeds from ticket sales and the gift basket raffles benefitted the ASP mission trip that our youth and adult leaders will make in July. Those that attended the show may remember some of the highlights pictured here:



Upper left, cast members start to gather onstage during the show's finale.
Upper right, the younger cast members perform a number which featured one singer's debut on the Pilgrim Hall stage.
At left, Tevye ponders what he'd do as a rich man, before Jay Howard had an unplanned opportunity to showcase his professionalism, carrying on without missing a beat when a prop let him down.

SAVE THE DATE!

Pancake Luncheon after church on Sunday, Feb 19th

It is hard to believe but Lent will begin on Ash Wednesday, Feb 22nd. 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 an activity to do together.





**NEWS FROM THE WORSHIP &
MINISTRY TEAM**

Worship & Ministry

The Worship and Ministry team is proud to introduce our team members, Pam Schretzenmayer, Julie York, and Doris Zegley. All three members come to the team with open hearts and open minds to take suggestions on the changes and/or continuation to practices within our worship services and our ministry as a whole. With the hope of Lent around the corner, we are a team of positivity and prayer, and those two things alone can do wonders.

If you know someone who is interested in attending our church for worship OR if you would like more information yourself to solidify your membership, please reach out to one of the team members or Pastor Liz and we'd be happy to talk to you. At this time, we have not scheduled a new member informational meeting, but we are anxious to welcome you to our pews as a member and not just a guest.

As the world slowly turns back to pre-2020 life, some things we recognize will never be the same. However, one thing some members have said they miss is receiving communion that's NOT in a plastic bag. Although we are thankful for the volunteers who have come and filled baggies with juice cups and cracker morsels, the thought of passing the elements is starting to be considered.

We are concerned about current illness rates within our communities and will consider the passing of those shiny plates as soon as the numbers drop, hopefully by Easter. Communion baggies will continue to be available in the narthex on days when applicable, to ensure everyone can participate in the way that is best for them.

With that idea in mind, we are looking for volunteers to usher and/or pass communion on Sundays. If you can smile and say hello, you qualify! Oh, and show up at 9:30am to ready the sanctuary. The buddy system is encouraged and a previous usher or greeter would be happy to show you the ropes once or twice. It's not even a weekly or monthly commitment. If you know there's a specific Sunday of the 48 left to this year that you will attend, we'd love to have you.

Interest is also needed for Lay readers during worship. There is no memorization needed! We'll print it out for you and have it ready upon your arrival. Pastor Liz and Carolyn in the office are excellent at prepping you with a copy. The best part is, no deciphering the meaning of the text is necessary! Pastor Liz takes care of all the explaining in her sermon that will follow.

Again, for Ushers, Greeters, or Lay readers, please reach out to Pam, Julie, Doris or even Pastor Liz. We're happy to have you. Peace.



Pam Schretzenmayer



Julie York



Doris Zegley

MISSIONS at CCNF



NEW FAIRFIELD FUEL BANK

We support the New Fairfield Fuel Bank with an annual donation. The New Fairfield Fuel Bank is a Social Services Fund that provides a one-time minimum delivery to New Fairfield income-eligible residents experiencing an emergency need. It is funded completely by donations. It can be used while the approval of an assistance application is being reviewed at which time other services can be set up. Social Services also supports our town through the Food Pantry, Holiday programs, and other general funds.

Our church supports the Fuel Bank through our yearly donation, made possibly by your pledges and generosity. Thank you for your support!

CCNF THRIFT SHOP



The church's clothing donation shed is open and receiving your usable donated clothes, shoes, belts and handbags. Generally, the Thrift Shop is open on the first and third Saturdays of the month, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Since the last edition of Candlelight, the Shop was open Dec. 3rd and 17th and Jan. 7th and 21st.

The Thrift Shop will be open from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., on Feb. 4 & 18.

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 past holiday season.

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 workload 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!



American Red Cross

Blood Services

BLOOD DRIVE REGISTRATION OPEN ONLINE

We hosted blood drives on Monday, Dec. 12, 2022 and Friday, Jan. 13, 2023. Both drives were deemed successful in helping to meet the critical need for blood. The next Red Cross Blood Drive at CCNF will be Friday, March 24, from noon to 5 p.m. Appointments to donate blood may be made online at www.redcrossblood.org. Let your friends know they can donate here!



*Serving at
Dorothy Day*

DOROTHY DAY HOSPITALITY HOUSE

We usually serve at Dorothy Day on the fourth Wednesday of each month. We will meet at the kitchen at 1:30 and we are normally finished between 4 -4:30pm.

Our February day is Wednesday, February 22nd. Please sign up in Pilgrim Hall or call the church office at 203-746-2865 to volunteer.

Many thanks for January's cooking volunteers - Karen Engstrom, 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 in January - Debbie Blackman, Bonnie Lees, Dorothy Milovic, Stephanie Shaughnessy, and Liz Yoho. 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 **Tuesday, Feb. 21**, to prepare and cook an entree for our serving day on the 22nd. If you are interested in coming to help cook on Tuesday 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 Tuesday, Feb 21, 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: hot cocoa, instant mashed potatoes, grape or strawberry jelly.

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.

LET'S GET SOAPY THIS WINTER FOR BUNDLES OF CARE!

We are having a Bundles of Care drive to help us meet our neighbors' basic cleaning needs. Items needed are listed on the flyer shown here at left.

If you can contribute one or more of these items, please bring them to the church during office hours Tues-Fri or on Sunday.

This drive will wrap up with a Food Drive and Bundles of Care collection at Stop & Shop on **Sunday, Feb. 26 (note new date)**, from noon to 4pm

Thank you for any help you can give during this drive.

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





CCNF Upcoming meetings and Events

Team meetings are held online.

Thurs, Feb. 2, 6 p.m.

Thurs, Feb. 2, 7:30 p.m.

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

Sun, Feb. 5, 10 a.m.

Wed, Feb. 8, 7 p.m.

Thurs, Feb. 9, 6 p.m.

Fri, Feb. 10, 11 a.m.

Sun, Feb. 12, 10 a.m.

Tues, Feb. 14, 7 p.m.

Weds, Feb. 15, 7 p.m.

Thurs, Feb. 16, 6 p.m.

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

Sun, Feb. 19, 10 a.m.

Tues, Feb. 21, 5 p.m.

Wed, Feb. 22, 7 p.m.

Wed, Feb. 22, 1:00 p.m.

Thurs, Feb. 23, 7 p.m.

Fri, Feb 24, 11 a.m.

Sun, Feb 26, 10 a.m.

Tue, Feb. 28, 4 p.m.

Thurs, March 2, 6 p.m.

Thurs, Mar 2, 7:30 p.m.

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

Sun, March 5, 10 a.m.

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

Wed, Mar 8, 7 p.m.

Thurs, Mar 9, 6 p.m.

“The Chosen” viewing/discussion

Faith Formation Team Meeting

Thrift Shop Open

Worship - Communion & Boy Scout Sunday

Trustees Team Meeting

Worship & Ministry Team Meeting

A Mother’s Love

Worship - 6th Sunday After Epiphany

Prayer Shawl Ministry Meeting

Missions Team Meeting

“The Chosen” viewing/discussion

Thrift Shop Open

Worship - Transfiguration Sunday

Cooking for Dorothy Day

Ash Wednesday

Dorothy Day Serving

Executive Council meeting

A Mother’s Love

Worship - First Sunday in Lent

Bundles of Care requests due

“The Chosen” viewing/discussion

Faith Formation Team Meeting

Thrift Shop Open

**Worship - Second Sunday in Lent/Communion
Sunday**

Bundles of Care distribution

Trustees

Worship & Ministry Team Meeting