

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

CANDLELIGHT - MARCH 2023

Hello Beloved Children!

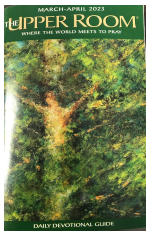
We are now in the season of Lent, a time for reflection, repentance and renewal. I like the idea of adding a spiritual practice to my life as a way of building my relationship with God. I found out long ago that giving up lima beans for Lent didn't count if I already didn't like them! For me there needs to be a greater purpose to the sacrifice for it to have the meaning I am looking for. And adding a practice to my life is a sacrifice as well because I need to let go of something else to ensure I make the time for more prayer, meditation or caregiving of others.

As you find a way, or even a variety of ways, to bring meaning, growth and renewal to your spiritual life, I encourage you to talk to each other about it. You will find support and maybe some new ideas as we share with others how we deepen our faith and relationship with God. Hopefully our families are enjoying the Table Blessings resource as a way to bring grace at mealtimes to their daily routine. It is a simple yet profoundly important way to acknowledge our dependence on our Creator. There is still time to begin, resources are available in Pilgrim Hall for you to help yourself.

Blessings and peace,
Pastor Liz

WORSHIP SERVICES

We continue to 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



THE UPPER ROOM

The bi-monthly publication "The Upper Room" March/April 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. Please help yourself to one.



FAITH FORMATION NEWS

Faith Formation classes are addressing Lenten themes. We have been learning about sacrifices. We have been given a Lenten gift box to share with the church and to be brought in on Sundays. We practiced the art of giving compliments, and how that makes us feel. We received Table Blessing Cards, so the children can lead family prayer and conversation at the dinner table. We will learn about activities

through the "Together with Jesus" book.



USHERS and WELCOMERS! Consider serving your fellow church members this season as an usher/welcomer for our Sunday services. Contact Stephanie by email at

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).



MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION MEETING

We will have a meeting to share information about membership in the church on Sunday, March 19th, after the worship service. If you'd like to know more about formalizing your relationship with CCFN, please come to this "no obligation" meeting. Bring any questions you may have, or just come find out what there is to know about church membership at CCFN. You are welcome whether you are 'brand new' here or have been attending for a long time and just haven't formally become a member.



SOUP SUNDAY FOR THE COLD MONTHS

The next Soup Sunday will be **March 19th**. Join us after the worship service for some soup and fellowship. **THANK YOU** to all our Soup Chefs this season: Elissa Leone, Doris Zegley, Liz & Tracy Yoho, Dana Zegarelli, and their families.

THE PANCAKE LUNCHEON on Sunday, Feb. 19, was a festive time for all who attended. Delicious pancakes with fruit and other toppings were enjoyed and the table decorations lent a Mardi Gras air to the event.



NEWS FROM THE WORSHIP & MINISTRY TEAM

Worship & Ministry

And so Lent is off and running! Worship & Ministry is pleased to have assisted at our recent Ash Wednesday service with Pastor Liz. There was excellent participation, both in-person and online.

One of the bigger changes that was attempted during this service was the participation of communion by intinction. Participants were also offered the familiar to-go communion bag we've been using since resuming services in-person after Covid. The reception to Intinction seemed welcomed, so we are exploring ways to bring communion back to our traditional method of passing the elements.

This means we are looking for volunteers! In order to partake in the traditional communion, our service will need volunteers who will pass the elements to participants in the pews. Ideally 4 volunteers per communion service is what is needed to restart this method. Many services only have 2 greeters now, who would be 2 of the volunteers if they are accepting of this additional responsibility.

If you feel you could assist with this, please see any Worship & Ministry member or Pastor Liz. Teamwork is greatly appreciated. Volunteering one time does not mean you have to do ALL the communion services! And remember, we only do this typically one time a month.

If you would still like to be a greeter during a service which does NOT involve communion, we welcome you also! Any given Sunday you know you will attend, we won't turn you down. See Doris Zegley, Julie York, Pam Schretzenmayer, or Pastor Liz to see where you can jump in.



Pam Schretzenmayer



Julie York



Doris Zegley



REGISTRATION FOR SUMMER CAMP AT SILVER LAKE OPENS MARCH 1ST!

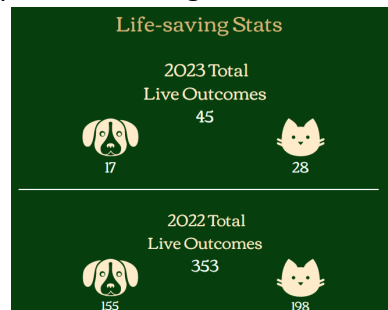
Visit SilverLakeCT.org/summercamp for more information on their programs for this summer. They have programs for students and families. If you are interested in a scholarship for summer camp, please pick up a form in the church office **this month**.

MISSIONS at CCFN



The New Fairfield/Sherman Animal Welfare Society is one of the local organizations supported by our congregation through donations to Missions. These include funding, sponsoring a cat enclosure and dog enclosure each year, pet supplies, and pet blankets which are lovingly made by Faith Formation and our church family!

Their mission is to offer refuge, medical care, and the opportunity for a second chance for life to needy dogs and cats; to protect animals from cruelty or neglect; to foster a public sentiment of humanity and gentleness toward all living creatures; to encourage and promote responsible pet ownership; and to reduce companion animal overpopulation through humane education and spay/neuter advocacy.



Some of their many wonderful programs include:

- Senior to Senior Adoptions - discounted adoptions
- Neighbors Helping Neighbors - assisting our community in the search of missing pets
- Trap Neuter Return – Focused on decreasing the feral cat population
- Pet Food and Supply Pantry
- And many others!

Faith Formation will be visiting the shelter on Sunday, March 12th to deliver the blankets! Watch for pictures!

Thank you for supporting Missions!

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 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., on March 4 & 18. They have St. Patrick's Day-themed items for all ages, so come shop for the 'wearing of the green' as well as your spring seasonal wardrobe refresh!

If you would like to help in the Thrift Shop, please contact Maryann Gillotti at

magillotti@yahoo.com



PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

The Prayer Shawl Ministry will meet next on Tuesday, March 14th, at 7 p.m. in the Conference Room at the church. All ages are welcome, whether you are an experienced crafter, or would like to learn.

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.



American Red Cross

Blood Services

BLOOD DRIVE REGISTRATION OPEN ONLINE

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, March 22nd. Please sign up in Pilgrim Hall or call the church office at 203-746-2865 to volunteer.

Many thanks for February's cooking volunteers - Judy Paniccia, Natalie Anderson, 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 February- Camden, Angela, Debbie, Bonnie, and Stephanie. 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, March 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, March 21, and let Pastor Liz or Carolyn know your donation is for Dorothy Day.

For the Grab & Go bags: chips, granola bars, fruit chews

To hand out: jersey work gloves, washable LG and MED gently used jackets, new tagless boxer briefs
For the Dorothy Day kitchen: margarine, bread crumbs, apple cider vinegar
For the Shower: wash cloths, hand towels, LG and MED new white T-shirts



THANK YOU FOR GETTING SOAPY WITH US!

Our drive for Bundles of Care wrapped up with the Food Drive at Stop & Shop on Sunday, Feb. 26th. Between donations received at church and the amazing generosity displayed over four hours at the store, enough was collected to cover many tabletops in Pilgrim Hall! The next steps will be inventorying and delivering the items collected. Take a look at some pictures from the drive:



To all those who donated and all those who volunteered with this project, **Well Done!!**

*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, March 2, 6 p.m.
 Thurs, March 2, 7:30 p.m.

“The Chosen” viewing/discussion
 Faith Formation Team Meeting



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

Sun, March 5, 10 a.m.

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

Wed, March 8, 7 p.m.

Thurs, March 9, 6 p.m.

Fri, March 10, 11 a.m.

Sun, March 12, 10 a.m.

Tues, March 14, 7 p.m.

Weds, March 15, 7 p.m.

Thurs, March 16, 6 p.m.

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

Sun, March 19, 10 a.m.

Tues, March 21, 5 p.m.

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

Thurs, March 23, 7 p.m.

Fri, March 24, 11 a.m.

Sun, March 26, 10 a.m.

Tue, March 28, 4 p.m.

Sun, April 2, 10 a.m.

Tue, April 4, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Thurs, April 6, 7 p.m.

Fri, April 7, noon

Sun, April 9, 10 a.m

Thrift Shop Open

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

Bundles of Care distribution

Trustees Team Meeting

Worship & Ministry Team Meeting

A Mother's Love

Worship - Third Sunday in Lent

Prayer Shawl Ministry Meeting

Missions Team Meeting

"The Chosen" viewing/discussion

Thrift Shop Open

Worship - Fourth Sunday in Lent

Cooking for Dorothy Day

Dorothy Day Serving

Executive Council meeting

A Mother's Love

Worship - Fifth Sunday in Lent

Bundles of Care requests due

Worship - Palm Sunday

Bundles of Care distribution

Worship - Maundy Thursday

Worship - Good Friday

Worship - Easter Sunday