

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

CANDLELIGHT - JUNE 2023

Hello Beloved Children!

We are enjoying the blessings of our Creator as we have begun to worship outside. This is a busy month with Confirmation, Children's Sunday, Baptisms on June 11th, Scout Projects at church, Play rehearsals begin, Homefront Project, and the ASP Team packing on June 30. Our congregation is doing much to share God's love with the world and to be an expression of that love. I hope you have found ways to be involved in the community.

This month with our activities there is a focus on the children and young people of the congregation. Certainly we know that they are our future. They need to be taught and exposed to a variety of ways that they participate in the world and make a difference. It is wonderful to see them lead us in worship and learn how important they are to us. As we baptize new members of the body of Christ on June 11, we will also see how those young people among us have been learning about being a disciple of Christ. We all contribute to this learning by actively participating in teaching but also by being present and supporting that process. Please take the time to reach out and talk to our young people. Ask them questions, learn their names, find out what they are about. And in turn, help them to know about you and the things that are important to you. These relationships are vital and rewarding.

We know connection is important and none of us can go through life alone. Having a variety of friends and connections will help to make our time worthwhile and fulfilling. So see who you can meet new this month. Reach out and call someone you haven't seen for awhile. It may feel awkward at first, but I promise, you will be glad you did it.

Blessings and peace,
Pastor Liz

Moderators Report – May 2023

The weather didn't really show it at first, but Spring is here! Hard to believe that we already have 5 months gone by in 2023, and we have already begun enjoying outdoor service in the garden. I appreciate everything our busy teams and various volunteers are doing to maintain our building and grounds and to grow our ministry in our community. Thank you to all who helped tidy up our outdoor spaces during the outdoor clean up on Saturday, May 6!

I also wanted to make note of the church's finances, which, while still healthy, have seen an appreciable drop in contributions and pledges for 2023. I understand that our current economic difficulties and inflation affect us all, but wanted to bring it to the Congregation's attention and to ask for you to thoughtfully consider your financial contributions to the church and how it affects the great things we are able to do.

Respectfully submitted,
Brian Johannssen, Moderator

TREASURER'S REPORT

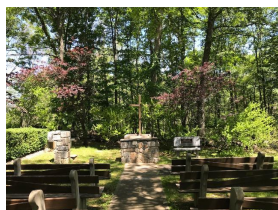
01/01/2023 through 04/30/2023

Checking Account Balance \$48,044.57

Income/Expense Comparison

<u>Income</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023 vs 2022</u>
Pledges	\$51,371.44	\$60,059.13	(\$8,687.69)
Income from other sources	\$20,436.62	\$17,471.17	\$2,965.45
Reversal of Bank Error	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$500.00
Total Income	\$72,308.06	\$77,530.30	(\$5,222.24)
<u>Expenses</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023 vs 2022</u>
Payroll	\$62,470.70	\$51,250.82	\$11,219.88
Teams (Faith Formation, Missions, Trustees, W&M)	\$41,191.90	\$24,770.97	\$16,420.93
Bank Fees	\$208.72	\$196.49	\$12.23
Bank Error	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$500.00
Total Expenses	\$104,371.32	\$76,218.28	\$28,153.04
Net Operating Profit / (Loss) for 2023	(\$32,063.26)	\$1,312.02	(\$33,375.28)

Respectfully submitted by Jacki Cooper, Treasurer



WORSHIP SERVICES

We continue to meet at 10 a.m. each Sunday in our Garden weather permitting. 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.

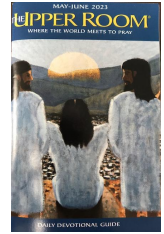
office@ccnf-ucc.org

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



THE UPPER ROOM

The May/June edition of The Upper Room is available now in the narthex and near the entrance to Pilgrim Hall. This publication is a conveniently small size, so you can use the daily devotionals anywhere you travel. Help yourself to a copy.



FAITH FORMATION NEWS

It is here!! Please join us on Sunday, June 11, for a wonderful worship service led by the young people of our congregation. There will be special music offerings and a news report from Galilee.

All children are strongly encouraged to come to church the week before on June 4th for preparations and practice. If you have a conflict, you need to contact Colleen McQuade at faithformation@ccnf-ucc.org so accommodations can be made. We look forward to seeing all our young people for this special day.



A MESSAGE FROM KELSEY FINLAY:

For the last 5 years I have participated in what is known as ASP. ASP (short for Appalachia Service Project) is a mission trip dedicated to making homes in Appalachia “warmer, safer, and drier”.

What is important about this trip is that while labor and getting work accomplished is a huge priority it is not number one. What we volunteers and the leaders prioritize the most is making connections with the homeowners we are working for, the community we are staying in, and the other participants within ASP. As previously stated I have been doing this trip a long time; since I was 16 and I am now 21! I can wholeheartedly say this trip has changed my life. Some of my happiest moments have come from my journeys to West Virginia and Kentucky! For example, I spent a week on repairing a tin roof that leaked during a heatwave. It was hard work and it was brutal at times, but when the rain poured down on the last day on site I almost cried with joy. The people you meet and the memories you make are unforgettable. Unfortunately, participation for ASP has dwindled and it is becoming harder and harder to find the funds to travel. If you take the time to read this (which thank you if you read this the whole way through) and you are able, your financial support would mean a lot to us volunteers. You are directly helping us make a difference for those who live in hardship. Thank you for your consideration. -Kelsey



You can purchase stock in the ASP trip after worship each Sunday in June or mail a donation into the church office noting it is for ASP Stock. Please include your email if you have one and your address as well so we can send you a postcard from the trip. We are very appreciative of your gifts to this mission work. Thank you from the adult leaders and youth of the 2023 ASP Team

MISSIONS at CCNF

AMOS HOUSE



Our Mission spotlight this month is **Amos House**. It is a 19-bed house in Danbury with a communal kitchen and living area which provides **transitional housing for homeless women with children**. They can stay up to two years while they work to find permanent housing.

While they are at Amos House, they are able to save money for a security deposit and future rent. There are also support services which are customized to each individual to teach life skills such as budgeting, job skills, and coping skills to ensure they will be successful and self-sufficient once they are out on their own.

Program Requirements

- Demonstrate the ability and willingness to help themselves and accept professional guidance.
- Be without a permanent home.
- Be referred by an accredited agency and/or shelter.
- Complete a rigorous application process.
- Be amenable to living in a semi-communal setting; be substance-free.
- Contribute 30% of their adjusted gross income (less allowances for children) to the program costs.
- Commit to complete their program within a specific time period (two year maximum).

Once accepted, a program specific to the applicant's needs is developed by the Road to Home at Amos House staff. Programs may take up to two years depending upon individual circumstances.

Individualized development plan may include

- Therapy to manage stress, depression and self-esteem issues
- Communication and problem solving for successful cohabitation
- Practical help with basic living skills
- Nutritional counseling
- Parenting skills
- Household budgeting
- Codependency support groups
- How to tools: renting an apartment, day-care, parent/teacher relations
- Healthy family recreational activities

Volunteers are needed: We welcome your donations in time & talent in the following areas:

- Outside Carpentry / Maintenance
- Fundraising
- Career Development
- Off-site Child Care
- Off-site Clerical Assistance
- Landscaping/Gardening
- Outreach/Publicity
- Board Membership

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 June 3rd and 17th.

Extra help is always appreciated, so if you would like to lend us a hand in the Thrift Shop, please contact Maryann Gillotti at magillotti@yahoo.com



*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 next day is **Wednesday, June 28th**. Please sign up in Pilgrim Hall or call the church office at 203-746-2865 to volunteer.

Many thanks for May's cooking volunteers - Will Anderson, Jessica Garcia, Kylee Garcia, Judy Paniccia, Elissa Leone and Colleen McQuade.

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

Also thanks to our volunteer servers and food preparers at the kitchen in May- Debbie Blackman, and her grandson Cam, Dorothy Milovic, Adele Carey, Liz Yoho and Stephanie Shaughnessy. 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, June 27**, to prepare and cook an entree for our serving day on the 28th. If you are interested in coming to help cook on Tuesday night, please sign up on the sheet in Pilgrim Hall or contact the office 203-746-2865.

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, June 27, and let Pastor Liz or Carolyn know your donation is for Dorothy Day.

For the Grab & Go bags: chips, snacks, granola bars, breakfast bars

To hand out: jersey work gloves, bottled water, ramen noodles

For the Dorothy Day kitchen: zip lock bags - sandwich & snack, regular coffee

For the Shower: new underwear for men and women, eye glasses, shorts

DOROTHY DAY ANNUAL PICNIC

It's time for the annual Dorothy Day Picnic Saturday, June 17th behind the kitchen at 11 Spring Street from 12:00 noon to 3:00 pm.

Everyone is welcome! Old Friends! New Friends! Volunteers and Neighbors!

Please join us under the tent for good food, music, soft drinks, salads, cake and ice cream!





JOIN CCFN'S TEAM TO SUPPORT ANN'S PLACE

If you'd like to run or walk in the Amber Room Run From The Sun 5K on Thursday, Aug. 17, see Will Anderson or Stephanie Shaughnessy before or after a worship service, or email Stephanie at jiaowah@charter.net After the race, the Amber Room hosts a party for participants featuring outdoor barbecue, refreshments,

live music and an awards ceremony. Ann's Place, the beneficiary of the Run from the Sun 5K, provides comfort, support and resources to people living with cancer and their loved ones.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY



The Prayer Shawl Ministry meets on the second Tuesday of the month, 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.



JUNE IS PRIDE MONTH



June is National Pride Month and also the month we celebrate our congregation becoming Open & Affirming. We will display our welcome, that is unique in New Fairfield, by displaying the pride flags on the front of the church.

We signed our Open & Affirming Covenant on June 7, 2015.

We, the Congregational Church of New Fairfield, United Church of Christ, believe that "no matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here." We welcome people of all ages, races, gender identity, sexual orientation, physical or mental ability, socio-economic status, family structures, and faith backgrounds.

We are a congregation that invites everyone to journey together in faith, as one body in Christ. We strive to do our best to share the love that Christ has shown to us by celebrating the diversity of God's whole community.

As an Open & Affirming church we encourage all to participate and share their talents and energy in the life of the church, including leadership, sacraments, worship, ministry, fellowship, responsibilities, blessings and joy of this congregation.

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, June 1, 7:30 p.m.

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

Sun, June 4, 10 a.m

Tue, June 6, 11 a.m.

Thurs, June 8, 6 p.m.

Thurs, June 8, 6:15 p.m.

Friday, June 9, 12 p.m.

Sat, June 10, 8:30 a.m.

Sun, June 11, 10 a.m

Mon, June 12, 7 p.m.

Tues, June 13, 7pm

Wed, June 14, 7 p.m.

Thurs, June 15, 6 p.m.

Thurs, June 15, 7 p.m.

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

Sun, June 18, 10 a.m.

Mon, June 19, 7 p.m.

Wed, June 21, 7 p.m.

Thurs, June 22, 5 p.m.

Thurs, June 22, 6:15 p.m.

Thurs, June 22, 7 p.m.

Friday, June 23, 12 p.m.

Sun, June 25, 10 a.m.

Sun, June 25, 7 p.m.

Tue, June 27, 4 p.m.

Tues, June 27, 5 p.m.

Wed, June 28, 1:00 p.m.

Thurs, June 29, 6:15

Friday, June 30, 4 p.m.

Sat, July 1, 8 a.m.

Sun, July 2, 10 a.m.

Sun, July 2, by appointment

Faith Formation Meeting

Thrift Shop Open

Worship - Communion & Confirmation

Bundles of Care Distribution

Worship & Ministry Team Meeting

Play Rehearsal

Mother's Love

HomeFront Project

Worship - Baptisms & Children's Sunday

Play Rehearsal

Prayer Shawl Meeting

Trustees Team Meeting

"The Chosen" viewing & discussion

Play Rehearsal

Thrift Shop Open

Worship - Third Sunday after Pentecost

Play Rehearsal

Missions Team Meeting

ASP Picnic

Play Rehearsal

Executive Council Meeting

Mother's Love

Worship - Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Play Rehearsal

Bundles of Care requests due

Cooking for Dorothy Day

Dorothy Day Serving

Play Rehearsal

ASP Van Packing

ASP Trip to Tennessee!

Worship - Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Solo Play Rehearsals