

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

## **CANDLELIGHT - NOVEMBER 2023**

Hello Beloved Children!

Happy Thanksgiving! It is the season of gratitude and as the church we have much to be thankful for. We dedicated our new garden space on Oct 22nd. It was quite chilly but we gathered together and expressed our gratitude for all the planning, work and gifts that were involved in making the improvement to the space possible. We have been blessed with a beautiful garden that brings nature into our worship. It is also a draw for community members to find a place of welcome for worship.

This month we are celebrating Bible Sunday for a wonderful group of children. The Faith Formation Team has the opportunity to give more bibles this year so that we can adjust the ages for each bible gift. Our 1st and 2nd graders will be getting a storybook bible and our 5th and 6th graders will receive the Action Bible which is in a graphic novel style telling God's redemptive story. If you are new to our congregation and your child did not receive a storybook Bible, we would like to offer an adventure Bible for them to read. All parents of children receiving a bible are asked to email their child's full name as it should be in the Bible to the office by November 16th. What a great day it will be to be able to celebrate the gift of Bibles to our children. This is one of the ways that we fulfill our promise of love, support, and care at their baptisms.

We have ushered in our season of Stewardship with sharing from Greg Williams during worship on Nov 12 and Will Anderson on Oct 29. We will hear from a few other people in the coming months. Stewardship looks at the ways we give back to our church through our time, talent, and treasure. This month and next, we will focus mostly on our treasure and ask for our members and friends to 'pledge' their financial support to our church. We have been very grateful for the gifts of so many over the years. We have been blessed to be able to meet our budget and continue our ministry. This fall, we took money from the available interest earned from the permanent funds account. It has been 7 years since we have needed to do this and we are grateful for that time and for the fact that we have that resource available to us. We hope that our members and friends will be moved to offer a pledge to the congregation that will help to pay for the annual budget. You will receive a letter from the church in the coming week.

The Appalachia Service Project (ASP) Team is gathering together to begin training in the new year for their summer trip and the local projects they will be working on. To help fund our work, we will be hosting the annual Christmas Show on Saturday, December 9th at 7pm. Tickets will be available to purchase this coming weekend for \$25 with all profit helping to make our trip possible. We are grateful for two performers who have agreed to share their talents with us, Cris Groenendaal (Phantom of the Opera, Sweeney Todd) and his wife Sue Anderson (Cats, Spamalot). As always we will have our youth performing in the first act, followed by a delicious dessert bar before our featured Broadway performers take the stage. There will be wonderful raffle baskets to take a chance on too!

And before you know it... Advent will begin on Sunday, Dec 3rd. Join us on Sunday, Nov 26 to decorate the Christmas tree and sanctuary so we can all begin the season together.

Blessings and peace,  
Pastor Liz

## MODERATOR'S REPORT

As the calendar rolls into November, it is time to reflect on all we have to be thankful for, and the many blessings bestowed upon us by our Creator. I would like to give thanks to all the people who volunteer to run our various teams and ensure the day-to-day functioning of our Church is as smooth as possible. Without your generous contributions of your time, our congregation would be in very dire straits. So, thank you to all who help out.

Our church is lucky to have several internal activities that support us financially, and I'd like to recognize them.

The Thrift Shop has contributed \$27,400 to our Unified Fund, which is simply amazing! They do a tremendous job sorting through donations, determining prices and then running the store on Saturday mornings 2 times a month. This is not only a great benefit to the Church financially, but also provides a needed service to the community with quality low-cost clothing options. I know they can always use additional help. Any time available to help sort or just help work the store would be welcomed, as they would like to extend their opening hours but need more help to do that.

The Summer Play was a smashing success this year, with sellouts and lots of eager young actors and actresses, singers and dancers giving a great rendition of "Cinderella." This year the play resulted in a \$8,600 profit for the Church, and we are grateful to Carl and Betsy and all the other volunteers who put this on. It's a great fundraiser, but also a wonderful presentation of our Church to the community.

November is also Stewardship time, and I would gently remind everyone to keep up on your pledges and financial donations. While our fundraising activities are successful, by far the biggest support of our operating budget comes from your pledges and donations. As you consider your pledges for next year, if you are able to increase your support it would go a long way to allowing us to continue the good work we do supporting Dorothy Day Hospitality House, ARC, Ann's Place, Regional Hospice, FISH, NFSAW, and various other community organizations. Consider giving electronically, it's the easiest way to give. It can be done directly from your bank account (BEST) or using a credit card. Credit cards do come with additional fees for the church, and there are also transactional costs so weekly giving increases those costs. The best way to contribute is monthly with an ACH transfer from your bank account.

And finally I would like to recognize the great project that occurred in our Garden area, where generous gifts from the Riccardi family, Eckhert family and gifts from the Book of Remembrance were used to put in two new retaining walls and improve, enlarge and level the bench areas. If you haven't had a chance to see it stop by and take a look, it truly is amazing.

*Brian Johannssen*

Moderator

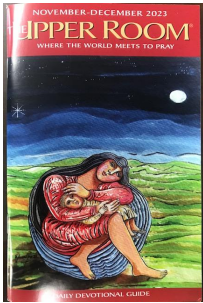


**IMPORTANT NOTICE: CONGREGATIONAL MEETING WILL BE ON SUNDAY, DEC. 3RD  
FOLLOWING THE WORSHIP SERVICE.**



### WORSHIP SERVICES

Along with our in-person worship, we continued to offer the livestream of the 10 a.m. Sunday 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](mailto:office@ccnf-ucc.org)



### THE UPPER ROOM

The November/December 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.



### WOMEN'S MINISTRY TO VISIT ANN'S PLACE'S FESTIVAL OF TREES

Join your church friends for the Festival of Trees on Saturday, Nov. 18th. The Festival will be held at The Summit, 100 Reserve Road in Danbury. Enjoy the forest of decorated trees, exciting raffle prizes, the Boutique and Quilter's Corner gift shops, live entertainment and more. The Festival is a fundraiser to offset the free cancer support services Ann's Place provides to local families. See [www.annsplacefestivaloftrees.org](http://www.annsplacefestivaloftrees.org) for more information.

General Admission on Saturday Nov. 18 is from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and tickets are \$10 for ages 3+ and \$5 for ages 65+. If you are interested in going with the Women's Ministry group, please sign up in Pilgrim Hall or call the church office. We will sort out the meet up time and any carpooling with those who sign up.

## 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 is open on the first and third Saturdays of the month, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

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](mailto: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

cook night is **Tuesday, Nov. 21st** and our next serving day is **Wednesday, Nov. 22nd**. Please sign up in Pilgrim Hall or call the church office at 203-746-2865 to volunteer.

### Many thanks for October volunteers

*For cooking*, thank you to Karen Engstrom, Elissa Leone, Colleen McQuade, Judy Paniccia and Pam Schretzenmayer.

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

*Thanks to our volunteer servers and food preparers at the kitchen:* Irene Howard, Bonnie Lees, Dorothy Milovic, Stephanie Shaughnessy, Gretchen Skidmore and Liz Yoho.

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](mailto:pastor@ccnf-ucc.org)

### COOK NIGHT

We will meet at CCNF on **Tuesday, Nov. 21**, to prepare and cook an entree for our serving day on the 25th. 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, Oct. 24, and let Pastor Liz or Carolyn know your donation is for Dorothy Day.

**For the Grab & Go bags:** individually wrapped snacks, granola bars, Pop Tarts

**To hand out:** jersey work gloves, bottled water

**For the Dorothy Day kitchen:** zip lock bags - sandwich & snack, regular ground coffee, instant mashed potatoes

**For the Shower:** soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes, razors, shaving cream, deodorant, bath towels



### COMMUNITY FOOD DRIVE UPDATE

Our volunteers and community members really stepped up on Sept. 17th, when we held the annual food drive to stock our community food pantries. Proof of that comes in the report from ARC (one of the beneficiaries of this effort) that CCNF donated over 1,000 lbs of food!

And that's just part of what was collected and donated! Other donations went to the New Fairfield Food Pantry, Bundles of Care, and Dorothy Day!



## FAITH FORMATION NEWS

THE HOLY FAMILY IS HERE

The Christmas Pageant will take place Sunday, Dec. 17th.  
Final rehearsal will be Saturday, Dec. 16th, at 9 a.m.

All children and youth can be involved. Adult volunteers are needed to help with set preparation, costumes, angel wrangling and shepherd herding. Please see Colleen to offer your assistance.

Also, worship parts are available! Please see Pastor Liz.



## Compassionate Kids Thanksgiving Project

Compassionate Kids will be putting together bags of Blessings Mix Nov. 19th, right after church school as a service project. We will then have families make the deliveries! A wonderful opportunity to see the impact of being remembered by our church family. If you would like to help organize and lead this service project, please contact Pastor Liz [pastor@ccnf-ucc.org](mailto:pastor@ccnf-ucc.org) or text her at 203-240-3325. Thanks!



## Bible Sunday

We are celebrating all those who are receiving a Bible from Faith Formation on Bible Sunday. Attention Parents! If your child is in **grades 1, 2, 5, or 6**, they will be receiving a Bible from the church on **Sunday, November 19th**. Our younger children will receive a storybook bible and the older children will receive an Action Bible. Please send your child's full name as it should appear in their bible to [FaithFormation@ccnf-ucc.org](mailto:FaithFormation@ccnf-ucc.org). Let us know if you will not be able to attend and we will hold the bible for you.

If you would like more information about Faith Formation at CCNF, contact Colleen McQuade at [faithformation@ccnf-ucc.org](mailto:faithformation@ccnf-ucc.org) or call 203-746-2865.

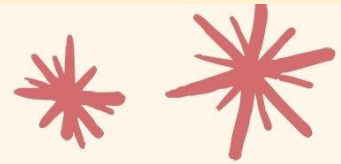


**USHERS and WELCOMERS!** Consider serving your fellow church members this season as an usher/welcomer for our Sunday services. Contact Stephanie by email at [jiaowah@charter.net](mailto:jiaowah@charter.net) to sign up for an upcoming Sunday. We will happily send you a reminder email during the week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

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



PLEASE JOIN US FOR



# *“Christmastime is Here”*

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9TH AT 7PM**

*With Performances from Broadway Alumni  
Cris Groenendaal and Sue Anderson*

Join us for some Christmas cheer in our annual Christmas show! Performances by local youth and seasoned professionals!



There will be many raffles as well as an array of desserts! All to benefit our annual trip with Appalachia Service Project!



**Tickets \$25**

**Congregational Church of New Fairfield, 20 Gillotti Road  
to reserve tickets call (203) 746-2865**





## CCNF Upcoming meetings and Events

*Team meetings are held online.*

Sat, Nov. 4, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

**Sun, Nov. 5, 10 a.m.**

Tues, Nov. 7, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Weds, Nov. 8, 4 p.m.

Weds, Nov. 8, 7 p.m.

Thurs, Nov. 9, 6 p.m.

**Sun, Nov. 12, 10 a.m.**

Tues, Nov. 14, 7 p.m.

Weds, Nov. 15, 4 p.m.

Weds, Nov. 15, 7 p.m.

Thurs, Nov. 16, 7 p.m.

Sat, Nov. 18, 9 a.m.

Sat, Nov. 18, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Sat, Nov. 18, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

**Sun, Nov. 19, 10 a.m.**

Tues, Nov. 21, 5 p.m.

Weds, Nov. 22, 1 p.m.

Weds, Nov. 22, 4 p.m.

*Thursday Nov. 23*

**Sun, Nov. 26, 10 a.m.**

Tue, Nov. 28, 4 p.m.

Weds, Nov. 29, 4 p.m.

Thrift Shop Open

**Worship - 23rd Sunday after Pentecost**

Bundles of Care Distribution

Christmas Show Rehearsal

Trustees Team Meeting

Worship & Ministry Team Meeting

**Worship - 24th Sunday after Pentecost**

Prayer Shawl Meeting

Christmas Show Rehearsal

Missions Team Meeting

Executive Council Meeting

***Fall Cleanup***

Thrift Shop Open

Festival of Trees (Women's Ministry)

**Worship - 25th Sunday after Pentecost**

**Bible Sunday**

Cooking for Dorothy Day

Dorothy Day Serving

Christmas Show Rehearsal

*Happy Thanksgiving!*

**Worship - 26th Sunday after Pentecost**

Bundles of Care requests due

Christmas Show Rehearsal

### **Mark your December calendar for the following:**

Congregational Meeting, Sunday, Dec. 3rd, following the worship service.

Christmas Show fundraiser for ASP, Sat, Dec. 9th, 7 p.m.

Christmas Pageant, Sunday, Dec. 17th, during the worship service