

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

CANDLELIGHT - WINTER 2024

Hello Beloved Children!

Lent began last night with our Ash Wednesday Service on February 14th. Yet there is still time to think about your Lenten plans. Almost like New Year's resolutions, Lent is an opportunity to make a positive change in our lives. The season of Lent is the 40 days before Easter; it reminds us of the 40 days Jesus spent in the wilderness, resisting the temptations of Satan. We begin Lent with Ash Wednesday, remembering our mortality, and recognizing that life is a precious gift from God. It's a gift that we often take for granted.

Today, the season of Lent barely registers for most people, but for Christians it is still a time to take time, and reflect on your relationship with God. It's still a time to repent of our sins, to turn around, re-turn to God, and align our lives to reflect our gratitude for the gift of our life. The best way to do that is to be very intentional about making the time to pray, reflect, listen for God's voice, and then make the positive changes and choices to follow where God leads us. Below is a list of ways you might want to try during Lent to strengthen your relationship with God.

Top Ten List: THINGS YOU CAN TRY FOR THE LENTEN SEASON

- 10. Try an electronic fast.** Give up TV, video games, texting, tweeting, e-mail and all things electronic for one day every week. (or everyday of Lent!) Use the time to read & pray.
- 9. Start a prayer rhythm.** Say a prayer every time you brush your teeth, hear an ambulance, or check your e-mail. Before you text someone, pray for them.
- 8. Read one chapter in the Bible each day.** (Matthew's a good book to start with. Psalms, too.)
- 7. Forgive someone who doesn't deserve it (maybe even yourself.)**
- 6. Give up soft drinks, fast food, tea or coffee.** Give the money you save to help folks in Ukraine or Gaza or others in crisis.
- 5. Create a daily quiet time.** Spend 30 minutes a day in silence and prayer.
- 4. Cultivate a life of gratitude.** Write someone a thank you letter each week and be aware of how many people have helped you along the way.
- 3. Pray for others you see** as you walk to and from classes or drive to and from work.
- 2. Volunteer one hour or more each week** with a local shelter, serve a meal at Dorothy Day, become a mentor, visit a nursing home, pray for those on our prayer list, walk dogs at the animal shelter, participate in our Compassionate Connections ministry or _____ (you can fill in the blank.)
- 1. Attend the Bible Study, Witnesses at the Cross,** on Wednesdays at 6pm in the CCNF Conference Room.

Blessings and peace,
Pastor Liz

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The Budget Passed unanimously at the Dec.3rd Congregational Meeting. A copy will be published in the Annual Report, which will be distributed soon.



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

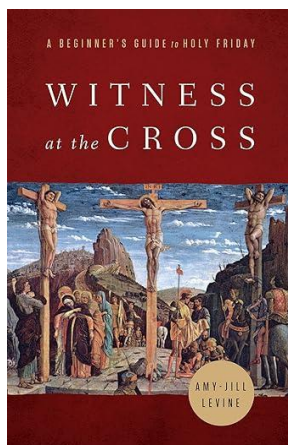


THE UPPER ROOM

We still have a couple copies of the January/February edition of The Upper Room 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. Watch for the new March/April copy coming soon. If you would like to reserve a copy, please call Carolyn in the church office, 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 to sign up for an upcoming Sunday. We will happily send you a reminder email during the week before your chosen Sunday(s).



LENTEN SOUP & STUDY

Join us for a Lenten Bible Study as we study "Witness at the Cross" by Amy-Jill Levine and meet on Wednesday during Lent. This study includes a book to read and a video presentation we will view at our gathering. Discussion will follow.

All are welcome, please let Pastor Liz know you will be attending so we can ensure we have enough books. The cost of the book is \$10.

We will begin each evening at 6 p.m. with some soup and bread and intend to finish by 7:30 p.m.

Our first gathering will be on Ash Wednesday, Feb 14th, to say hi and enjoy a meal. The first class will be on Wednesday, Feb 21st. We will finish this Soup & Study on Wednesday, March 27th.



SOUP'S ON! Thank yous for Soup Sundays Nov. 19: Elissa Leone and Stephanie Shaughnessy; Dec. 17: Adele Carey; Jan. 21: Priscilla Rocco and Stephanie Shaughnessy. We look forward to soup shared by Adele Carey on Sunday, Feb 18th.



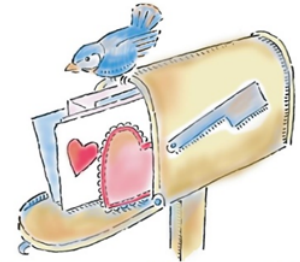
FEB 11 PANCAKE BRUNCH

Thank you to Gretchen Skidmore, Elissa Leone, Priscilla and Monica Rocco, Lauren McCormick, Pam Schretzenmayer, and Hazel Burger for all their hard work to allow us all to enjoy a delicious pancake brunch as we prepare for Lent. The spirit of

Mardi Gras was present as we celebrated together.

LENTEN LOVE NOTES

We are so excited to have 31 children participating in our Lenten Loves Notes! Even more so, thank you to all the adults who have taken on this ministry for Lent. They have agreed to pray for their assigned child(ren) each day and write them a note each week. Their notes will be based on a survey that our children did to share some information about them. We hope that these partnerships will encourage our children and remind them that they are loved, cared for and supported through our church. This is a promise we make to all who are baptized. We also hope that our children will return the gift of notes and share their thoughts and ideas with our adults. This is a beautiful example of the church that God intends, where all are welcome and valued.



Lenten Love Notes



NEW CRECHE

This Christmas season, we were blessed with a new creche structure, thanks to funding provided by Naomi Nafziger. The new creche was designed and built by Tracy Yoho, with help from Meredith Yoho, who also updated the figures. Now, Mary, Joseph, Baby Jesus and the angel are more protected from the elements and the overall appearance has been enhanced with the rustic structure. Many thanks to Naomi Nafziger for allowing us to preserve and enhance the display of our Holy Family.

COMPASSIONATE CONNECTIONS

Lay Ministry Opportunities

It is time to recommit to the ministries of Compassionate Connections or sign up for the first time. Are you someone who likes to talk on the phone? Are you willing to write a card? Do you have time to make a meal? Are you interested in praying for others? Do you have a little bit of free time to serve? Make a prayer shawl? Help create flower arrangements or deliver them?



Cards indicating your willingness to serve are on the Welcome Table at the entrance of church and in Pilgrim Hall. You can also find one on our website or call the church office. Thank you so much for being a part of the ministry of this congregation.

Dedication of the volunteers of our Compassionate Connections Ministries will take place on Sunday, Feb 25th during worship.

“CHRISTMASTIME IS HERE!” ON DECEMBER 9TH

A wonderful night of entertainment to benefit ASP took place in December. Terrific performances from the young people in Act One and from Broadway professionals Cris Groenendaal and Sue Anderson in Act Two, plus a fantastic array of desserts during Intermission, were enjoyed by all in attendance. A variety of gift baskets were raffled off, also.

Thank you to show director Irene Howard, emcee Jay Howard, Broadway actor and singer Cris Groenendaal and Broadway musical director, conductor and pianist Sue Anderson, the youth performers of CCNF, and all who contributed to a successful event.



MISSIONS at CCNF



WRAPPING FOR HOUSATONIC HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

Our church's volunteers certainly got into the spirit of the holiday and spent a night wrapping presents at Danbury Fair Mall. All the donations for their work went to support our local Habitat affiliate. Bonnie Lees, Dorothy Milovic and Stephanie Shaughnessy had a wonderful time helping the shoppers with all their gifts. It was a fun way to give to our local community. We worked with a new local Habitat homeowner and hearing her story was an inspiration to do more for this organization.

Remember Habitat's Restore when you

are donating housewares, they will happily receive them. Get more information at www.housatonichabitat.org or on FB <https://www.facebook.com/DanburyRestore/>



CCNF THRIFT SHOP

2023's ST. PAULY SHED RESULTS

In 2023, the clothing donation shed helped clothe 14, 964 people all over the world, from 81,233 pounds of clothing that was donated to St. Pauly Textile, Inc. As a result, CCNF received \$3,249 - money that helps support CCNF's mission work locally.

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





*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, Feb. 27th** and our next serving day is **Wednesday, Feb. 28th**. Please sign up in Pilgrim Hall or call the church office at 203-746-2865 to volunteer.

Many thanks for January volunteers

For cooking, thank you to Will Anderson, Judy Pannicia, 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: Stephanie Shaughnessy, Janelle McLean, Heather Williamson, 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

COOK NIGHT

We will meet at CCNF on **Tuesday, Feb. 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, Feb. 20, 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

Clothing needs: sweatpants and sweatshirts/hoodies; men's jeans sizes 32, 34, 36; men's shirts and footwear, especially work boots; men's winter and non-winter jackets; new men's and women's underwear.

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

NEW MISSION PROJECT: Care & Comfort Bags

The Mission Team is working to put together Care & Comfort Bags with the help of our children. These bags can be stored in your car and used when you come upon someone in need looking for help or a donation. The team is looking for donations of the following items to be included in the bags.

chapstick

kleenex packs

\$5 Gift Cards to Dunkin or McDonalds

personal hygiene items

new socks

individual snacks or granola bars

handwarmers

dental hygiene items

feminine hygiene products

hat, scarf, gloves - new or gently used & washed

Please speak with Stephanie Shaughnessy if you have any questions.

FAITH FORMATION NEWS

THE HOLY FAMILY IS HERE



The Christmas Pageant took place Sunday, Dec. 17th.

The story of the Holy Family was illustrated through the eyes of the present day Holy family (at right, discussing their involvement in the story). Following is a picture of the cast of lambs, angels, shepherds, narrators and the Holy Family.



Church School

One recent Sunday, the church school lesson on The Disciples included an activity during which the students created colorful fish, representing the good catch that the disciples would now be finding as the former fishermen started to become “fishers of people.”

Some of the church school children are shown at left with Miss Colleen.

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

BRING ME BACK HOME PROGRAM

FACT: 6 in 10 people living with dementia will wander.

People can lose their ability to recognize familiar places and faces at any stage of the disease.

What is the Bring Me Back Home program?

Families and care partners enter information about loved ones with cognitive challenges into the **Bring Me Back Home (BMBH) registry**. That information is made available to law enforcement across Connecticut for quick access in case of a missing or wandering incident. *Always call 911 immediately when someone wanders.*

How can we register?

To sign your loved one up for Bring Me Back Home, visit ct.gov/BMBH or scan the QR code.



ct.gov/BMBH



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



CCNF Upcoming meetings and Events

Some team meetings are held online.

Weds, Feb. 14, 7 p.m.

Sat, Feb. 17, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Sun, Feb. 18, 10 a.m.

Sun, Feb. 18, 11 a.m.

Tues, Feb. 20, 1:30 p.m.

Weds, Feb. 21, 6 p.m.

Weds, Feb. 21, 7 p.m.

Thurs, Feb. 22, 7 p.m.

Sun, Feb. 25, 10 a.m.

Tues, Feb. 27, 1:30 p.m.

Tue, Feb. 27, 4 p.m.

Tues, Feb. 27, 5 p.m.

Weds, Feb. 28, 1 p.m.

Weds, Feb. 27, 6 p.m.

Thurs, Feb. 29, 6:30 p.m.

Sat, March 2, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Ash Wednesday Service

Thrift Shop Open

Worship - First Sunday in Lent

Compassionate Kids- Care & Comfort Bags

Flower Arranging

Lenten Soup & Study

Missions Team Meeting

Executive Council

Worship - Second Sunday in Lent

(Dedication of Compassionate Connections)

Flower Arranging

Bundles of Care requests due

Cooking for Dorothy Day

Dorothy Day Serving

Lenten Soup & Study

“The Chosen” viewing & discussion

Thrift Shop Open

Sat, March 2, 11 a.m.
Sun, March 3, 10 a.m.
Sun, March 3, 11 a.m.
Tues, March 5, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Weds, March 6, 6 p.m.
Thurs, March 7, 7:30 p.m.
Sun, March 10, 10 a.m.
Sun, March 10, 5 p.m.
Tues, March 12, 7 p.m.
Weds, March 13, 6 p.m.
Weds, March 13, 7 p.m.
Thurs, March 14, 6 p.m.
Sat, March 16, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Sun, March 17, 10 a.m.
Tues, March 19, 5 p.m.

Weds, March 20, 6 p.m.
Weds, March 20, 7 p.m.
Thurs, March 21, 6:30 p.m.
Sat, March 23, 6 p.m.
Sun, March 24, 10 a.m.
Weds, March 27, 6 p.m.
Thurs, March 28, 7 p.m.
Friday, March 29, noon
Sunday, March 31, 6:30 a.m.
Sunday March 31, 10 a.m.

Funeral Service for Lisa Lee
Worship - Third Sunday in Lent
CCNF Informational Meeting
Bundles of Care Distribution
Lenten Soup & Study
Faith Formation Team Meeting
Worship - Fourth Sunday in Lent
SHY Work Trip Training & Irish Soda Bread
Prayer Shawl Ministry
Lenten Soup & Study
Trustees Team Meeting
Worship & Ministry Team Meeting
Thrift Shop Open
Worship - Fifth Sunday in Lent
Registration deadline for Mac & Chili Challenge
competitors
Lenten Soup & Study
Missions Team Meeting
"The Chosen" viewing & discussion
The Great Mac & Chili Challenge
Worship - Palm Sunday
Lenten Soup & Study
Worship - Maundy Thursday
Worship - Good Friday
Worship - Easter Sunrise
Worship - Easter