

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

CANDLELIGHT - OCTOBER 2024

Hello Beloved Children!

Grace and peace to all of you. It is wonderful to be back after my sabbatical this summer. I was able to participate in a conference in Pittsburgh, travel to visit family and friends, learn and study in Alabama, read, sing and worship in North Carolina and prepare myself for a return to ministry with all of you. I am grateful for the opportunity for rest and renewal. I must thank the Worship & Ministry Team of Pam Schretzenmayer, Doris Zegley, Julie York, Bart Carey, and Michael Iadarola who lead the congregation with Rev. Jane Moran. Many thanks as well to Carolyn Mueller who fielded questions and requests appropriately. I am also grateful that Colleen McQuade and Rev Carl Anderson continued their important ministries for the congregation. It is clear that this congregation is a community and together we continue to work to be the hands and feet of Christ. Praise God!

It is important, especially during this season of our church, to lend a hand. As we all know our lives are filled with many responsibilities and challenges. We typically have more to do on our own to-do lists than we have time to accomplish. Our church lists are the same. We have hopes, dreams and aspirations for ministries and not as many hands to complete them. If you are able to share some time with any of our Teams in the congregation, it would be greatly appreciated. The Trustee Team has a list of small projects that could be completed in your own time. The Faith Formation Team would love to have volunteers help with church school classes, Compassionate Kids projects and preparing materials. Missions has a blanket project to prepare for this month, and a food drive on Oct 27th after church. Please speak to a team member or Carolyn in the office or Pastor Liz if you have interest in helping with any of these projects.

This summer we had a successful musical production of *Suessical*. This ministry is important to our church and community in a variety of ways, as both outreach, and a fundraiser for the church. Many thanks to all the leaders who gave generously of their time and energy, especially Rev Carl Anderson, Betsy Anderson and the Summer Play Committee. And there are still ways to support that effort by helping to put away props, costumes and equipment. Let us know if you can help.

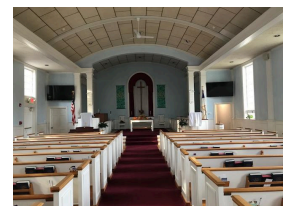
We are grateful for our outdoor space for worship and all who gave to make worship outside possible. It takes extra effort to set up the cameras, piano, sound system, and livestream equipment outside. Many thanks to the Tech Team for their care and time, especially Emily Wilt, Evelyn Zegley and Tracy Yoho.

I pray that you remember your belovedness, trust in God's directions, follow our Savior, and are open to the movement of the Holy Spirit. Please pray for me as well.

Blessings and peace,
Pastor Liz

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 We have moved services indoors now for the winter.



CONFIRMATION

On May 5th, we confirmed Natalie Anderson during the Sunday worship service. She is seen at left with two active members of the congregation and Pastor Liz during the confirmation liturgy. Congratulations, Natalie!



Children's Choir

CHILDREN'S CHOIR IS BACK!

We are so happy to announce that we are moving forward with Children's Choir this year. Our first gathering will be after church on Sunday, Oct 13th. We will be reviewing some old songs and learning a new one about God's Creation. We hope to have short rehearsal after church school and sing in worship about once a month. Please plan on coming on Sunday, Oct 13. We will meet in the sanctuary as soon as the children are dismissed from church school. Irene Howard and Colleen McQuade will be working with the children.



FAMILY DANCE NIGHT TO BENEFIT THE CCFN UNIFIED FUND!

Join special guests **DJ Mr. G and DJ Trapazzo on Saturday, Oct 5th, from 6 to 9 p.m. for a magical evening of family fun!** You're encouraged to raid your wizardly/witchy wardrobe for themed attire, and RSVP to Doris at 203-461-1604 or Monica at 203-600-0317 for a special Family Dance Night in Pilgrim Hall.

This is a fundraiser for the church's Unified fund. Ticket prices are: \$10 per adult, \$5 per child, with a family maximum of \$35.

Come have some fun!

COPING WITH GRIEF DURING THE HOLIDAYS

Unfortunately, grief never takes a break. As we approach the holidays, come to this 90 minute Workshop to learn some strategies to help yourself and your family get through this time without your loved one. The session will be held at the church on Tuesday, November 12 at 6 pm. Please pre-register by calling the church office.



Navigating Holiday Grief
a safe and comfortable place to explore your grief concerns and share with others who understand

Tues, Nov 12, 6:30pm

Facilitator - Stephanie Shaughnessy, MSW

Register at 203-746-2865

Hosted by the Congregational Church of NF and Tough Roads Foundation

20 Gillotti Road, New Fairfield, CT



BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

Plan to bring your pets (or a picture of them, if they are not easily transported) to the church grounds on Sunday, Oct. 6 at 2 p.m. to get them blessed.

MISSIONS at CCFN

COMPASSIONATE CONNECTIONS

Lay Ministry Opportunities

It is nearing the time to renew your commitment, or make a new one, to one or more of the ministry opportunities (Prayer Shawls, Flower Arranging & Delivery, Calls, Meals, Prayer List, Cards). Learn more by speaking to someone in the group you're interested in or call the church office. Keep an eye out for the Compassionate Connections cards to sign up for the new year of ministry.



FLOWER POWER

Several church members and friends meet weekly to arrange flowers into lovely bouquets, which are then delivered to folks in need of a little cheer.

As anyone who has received one or seen them lined up ready to go can attest, the flower arrangements turn out beautifully each week. This friendly group meets on Tuesday afternoons most weeks. If you would like to join them, contact the church or see Stephanie Shaughnessy after service one Sunday.



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 returning to their schedule of being open on the first and third Saturdays of the month, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. for October. Volunteers meet during the week to arrange the donations for upcoming sales. Extra help is always appreciated, so if you would like to lend us a hand in the Thrift Shop, please sign up in Pilgrim Hall.

(Above at left, several Thrift Shop volunteers gathered last spring for a luncheon in Pilgrim Hall.)

Bundles of Care Donations Requested

We continue to support members of our community in need of items not covered by SNAP. The program purchases items using Mission money from our Unified account in church. If you would like to help donate items that are needed, your gifts are welcome.

We currently need - small containers of laundry detergent, scrubbing powder, multi purpose cleaning spray, shaving cream, shampoo, conditioner, feminine hygiene products, Adult women diaper briefs size M or L, and dish soap. Bags and lists are available on the stage in Pilgrim Hall next to the donation bin. Thank you!





*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, Oct. 22nd** and our next serving day is **Wednesday, Oct. 23rd**. Please sign up in Pilgrim Hall or call the church office at 203-746-2865 to volunteer.

Serving at Dorothy Day is a wonderful way to be the hands and feet of Christ, serving those in need. It can bring a smile to your face, too - just look at Irene Howard and Debbie Blackman in the photo! Less visible is Jim Blackman, but he's smiling, too. If you have any questions or would like some more information, please contact Pastor Liz. pastor@ccnf-ucc.org



REFLECTIONS FROM NATALIE ANDERSON ON VOLUNTEERING AT DOROTHY DAY

I initially started helping out at Dorothy Day when I began my confirmation because it was a requirement. However, I continued even after my confirmation, because I still love cooking and strive to do it whenever I can. For me, being a part of the Dorothy Day program has been one of the most meaningful and transformative experiences in my life. It has been such a great opportunity for me to go out into the world as a child of God and spread love into my community.

My favorite part about this experience is working at the station that hands out the food. I love seeing people's faces light up when we offer refreshing ice pops on brutally hot days. Everyone is so appreciative of something that used to feel so simple to me. It made me think about what I value the most in my life. That bad hair days and missing out on my favorite Starbucks drink are not things of importance, they are not worthy struggles when other people in my city are dealing with much worse.

Overall I have become aware of the reality of life and the impact of kindness. I would recommend volunteering to help out with either the cooking or distribution of the meals. Especially as a confirmand, to read about Jesus's love for everyone, then being able to see and understand the aspects of his teachings in real life is a powerful thing. I love working with everyone there, laughing, having a good time knowing that what we do lightens the load of someone else's day. ~Natalie Anderson

MESSAGE FROM MISSIONS

The Missions Team has many exciting things to get involved in and are looking forward to over the next several weeks! A few highlights include:



Make Pet Blankets for the Shelter

We will be working with the Compassionate Kids to make **fleece blankets** this month for the dogs and cats at NFSAW. Look for the fleece blanket kits to be handed out at church later in October - so you can assist us in making a blanket to keep a shelter pet comfy!

Donate for BOC

We will be doing a **Bundles of Care drive** at church through the month of October. Grocery bags are being passed out at services, and shopping lists are available in Pilgrim Hall.



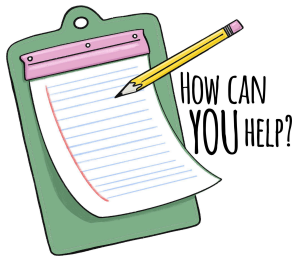
Help Host a Food Drive

To help our area food pantries, we are hosting a **food drive** at Stop & Shop on Sunday, October 27 from 12-4. Join us at Stop & Shop collecting food for an hour or two, or come help bring the collected food back to the church beginning at 3:30pm.



Evening Volunteering at CCNF Thrift Shop

Our Thrift Shop has a wide assortment of clothing, shoes, and more, for an excellent price. Maryann Gillotti and her wonderful team of volunteers work hard to make this successful!! They are looking for a small team of volunteers to come in one or two times a month in the evening to assist in sorting and hanging clothes. If you are available, please let us know by signing up on the clipboard or calling the church office.



These are just a few of the highlights of the Missions team. Stop at the many clipboards in Pilgrim Hall and sign up today with an activity that meets your interest!

Compassionate Kids

little hands ~ loving hearts



The Compassionate Kids group completed a project on Sunday, September 29th by making 60 sandwiches for Dorothy Day Hospitality House.

On Sunday, Oct 27th they will be visiting NFS Animal Welfare after church to hear about the important work they do at the shelter. They will also be working on making blankets for the shelter to have for its dogs and cats in their care.

FALL CLEAN UP DAY

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 9th

Mark your calendars to come to church with rake and tarp to help keep our outdoor spaces looking wonderful. We are so lucky to have the support of our local Scout Troops 137 and 42 to help us with this project.



Tuesday, October 8th, 2024 at 7:00 pm

The Prayer Shawl Ministry meets the 2nd Tuesday of the month and would love to have you come check it out. Join them to knit or crochet or loom and for some fellowship in the conference room. All ages welcome.

If you craft or want to learn we can help you. All you need to bring is knitting needles size 13 (long or circular), crochet hook size K or N, or loom (long rectangular). We supply the yarn. The shawls we make are a loving gift for

anyone in need. Need more info you can call Dot Bass 203-746-2855 or email dcbass@sbcglobal.net or Sue St. Hilaire 203-300-6220 or email sshilaire@sbcglobal.net.

If you would like to request a shawl, please contact Sue or Dot or Pastor Liz.

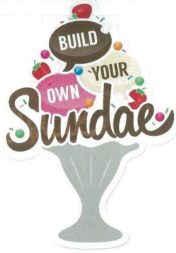


American Red Cross

BLOOD DRIVE TUESDAY, DEC. 3, 1:30 - 6 PM

Appointments are being taken now for the next blood drive at CCNF. To make an appointment, visit:

<https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/find-drive>



Appalachia Service Project Summer trip 2025

We are Appalachia Bound!

Calling all youth in high school and above who want to make a difference for families in need.

Come make a sundae & find out more...

Sunday, October 20 at 7pm
Congregational Church of New Fairfield
20 Gillotti Road

For more info contact pastor@ccnf-ucc.org



Help us make homes warmer, safer and drier!

Come make your own ice cream sundae while you find out what it's like to go on an ASP mission trip!

[← ← Details](#)

[⇐ ⇐ When & Where](#)



Don't Forget Your Offering

PLEDGE STATEMENTS

Our Financial Secretary, Sally Kile, will be preparing 3rd quarter pledge statements that will be sent to your home. Thank you to all those that have been working to stay current with your giving. We know this can be difficult at times and we appreciate your willingness to share your gifts with the ministries of this congregation.



Compassionate Connections Ministry ~ Give the gift of yourself

There are many ways to participate in this care-giving ministry. You can offer to:

- make calls or visits to folks to check in,
- send a card to those on our prayer list,
- make prayer shawls,
- arrange or deliver flower bouquets,
- lift others in prayer through our prayer chain.

We will be renewing commitments for the new year and inviting new people to participate. Fill out a Compassionate Connections Card and put it in an offering box or turn into the church office.

"I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

~ John 13: 34-35

A TIME FOR FELLOWSHIP

Set up, hosting and clean up help is needed especially on Sunday, Oct 13th. If you are available to assist, please sign up in Pilgrim Hall or call the church office at 203-746-2865



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

SPONSORED BY:
THE FAIRFIELD EAST ASSOCIATION
OF THE SOUTHERN NEW ENGLAND
CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED
CHURCH OF CHRIST

JAZZ

WORSHIP & BRUNCH

FEATURING JAZZ STANDARDS
AND HYMN ARRANGEMENTS
BY JOHN HODDINOTT ~ GUITAR
JOINED BY MALIN CARTA ~
SAXOPHONE,
MATTHEW MUNZNER ~ BASS,
& CONOR BRENNAN ~ DRUMS

10 AM SATURDAY, NOV 2
LOCATION: FIRST CHURCH
FAIRFIELD, 148 BEACH ROAD,
FAIRFIELD, CT

RSVP OFFICE@UCCB.ORG BY SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27TH



CCNF Upcoming meetings and Events

Some team meetings are held online.

Sat, Oct. 5, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Sat, Oct. 5, 6-9 p.m.

Sun, Oct. 6, 10 a.m

Sun, Oct. 6, 11 a.m.

Sun, Oct 6, 1 p.m.

Sun, Oct. 6, 2 p.m.

Tues, Oct. 8, 10 a.m.

Tues, Oct. 8, 1:30 p.m.

Tues, Oct. 8, 6 p.m.

Tues, Oct. 8, 7 p.m.

Weds, Oct. 9, 7:30 a.m.

Weds, Oct. 9, 7 p.m.

Thurs, Oct. 10, 10 a.m.

Thurs, Oct. 10, 6 p.m.

Sun, Oct. 13, 10 a.m.

Tues, Oct. 15, 10 a.m.

Tues, Oct. 15, 1:30 p.m.

Weds, Oct. 16, 7 p.m.

Thurs, Oct. 17, 6 p.m.

Thurs, Oct. 17. 7:30 p.m.

Sat, Oct 19, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Sat, Oct 19, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Sat, Oct 19, 12 - 5 p.m.

Sun, Oct. 20, 10 a.m.

Sun, Oct 20, 4-6 p.m.

Sun, Oct 20, 7-8 p.m.

Tues, Oct. 22, 10 a.m.

Tues, Oct. 22, 1:30 p.m.

Tues, Oct. 22, 5 p.m.

Wed, Oct. 23, 12:30 p.m.

Thurs, Oct. 24, 7 p.m.

Thurs, Oct. 24, 7:30 p.m.

Sun, Oct. 27, 10 a.m.

Sun, Oct 27, 11:30 a.m.

Sun, Oct 27, noon - 4 p.m.

Tues, Oct 29, 10 a.m.

Tues, Oct 29, 1:30 p.m.

Tues, Oct 29, 4 p.m.

Thurs, Oct 31, 10 a.m.

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

Thrift Shop Open

Wizards & Witches Family Dance Party

Worship - Twentieth Sunday After Pentecost

ASP Taco Bar and Slideshow

Solar Tour at UU Danbury

Blessing of the Animals

Thrift Shop Volunteering

Flower Arranging

Dorothy Day Appreciation Dinner

Prayer Shawl Ministry Meeting

Renewal House Breakfast

Trustees Team Meeting

Thrift Shop Volunteering

Worship & Ministry Meeting

Worship -21st Sunday After Pentecost, Bible Sunday

Thrift Shop Volunteering

Flower Arranging

Missions Team Meeting

"The Chosen" S4E2 viewing & discussion

Choir Rehearsal

Thrift Shop Open

Commission on Aging - Candid Conversations

New Fairfield Day - CCNF Tent & Face Painting

Worship - Acolyte & Young Worship Leaders Dedication

ASP Team & Missions Prep NFSAW Blankets

Sundae Sunday - ASP Informational Meeting

Thrift Shop Volunteering

Flower Arranging

Dorothy Day Cooking

Serving at Dorothy Day

Executive Council

Choir rehearsal

Worship - 23rd Sunday after Pentecost

Compassionate Kids Visit NFSAW

Food Drive at Stop & Shop

Thrift Shop Volunteering

Flower Arranging

Bundles of Care Requests due

Thrift Shop Volunteering

Thrift Shop Open