

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 2025

Hello Beloved Children!

It has been a busy time for our church as we have gathered back together. We have come back into the sanctuary after a beautiful summer worshipping outside. Many thanks to all who made that summer outdoor experience possible. We are so blessed to have that space available to us!

After many months of searching, the Faith Formation Team has hired Stephen Cook as our new Coordinator for Faith Formation. Stephen began working on October 14th. Please take a moment to welcome him before or after worship. You may also wish to speak to him about volunteering for Faith Formation.

Many thanks to the Worship & Ministry Team and the whole congregation for the kind words, card, plant, and beautiful new tote bag I received for Pastor Appreciation on Sunday, October 19th. I am so grateful for this church and the people of this congregation. I look forward to the many ways that we will continue to work and walk together in ministry.

Looking forward to Thanksgiving, please mark your calendars for ARC's Interfaith Thanksgiving Service to be held in the evening on Monday, November 24 at the United Methodist Church in Danbury.

Please join us for worship on Sundays or at our new Evening Prayer Service on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month. This service is a more quiet and contemplative service to connect with God. We offer prayers, music, meditation and communion at each service. It is a collaborative effort and we welcome not only your attendance but your suggestions as well. We hope you will give it a try.

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



What More Could I Have Done?

*"What more could have been done for my vineyard than I have done for it?
When I looked for good grapes, why did it yield only bad?" Isaiah 5:4*

November is Stewardship month. It is a month-long celebration of our church and what it means spiritually to each of us and the warmth and love it brings to our families. We each have different reasons and means for sharing. However, through your time, your energy and your financial support we can keep our church alive and relevant in our everyday lives. Without your generous pledge the church activities and responsibilities cannot continue.

In the very near future you will be receiving a letter and a pledge card in the mail. Unlike most campaigns, the drive to fund our church and all its wonderful activities will not go on forever. Stewardship month is only one month. You do not have to worry about missing Stewardship Sunday,



Stewardship

which is November 16th this year. You can drop your pledge in the offertory on any Sunday or mail it into the church office. You can even set up a convenient electronic pledge and avoid the weekly envelopes.

As always, our goal is 100% participation by the end of November. We cannot stress the importance of pledging enough. Church finances are always strained but without the ability to count on pledges or your promises the church cannot continue to deliver those essential services on which many of us have come to depend. Don't look back and ask what more could I have done, but rather look forward and be active in support of our church and ask what more could I do! We trust your Faith will guide you in your generosity.

Blessings, The Stewardship Committee



WORSHIP & MINISTRY

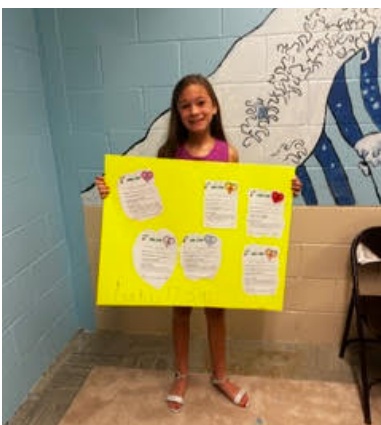
Worship & Ministry is excited to assist Pastor Liz in offering our Tuesday night prayer service. This quiet, contemplative service is held at 7 p.m. on the first and third Tuesday of each month. The planning team is focused on making each service unique with a variety of musical selections, prayers, meditations, and readings. So far themes have included feeling God's presence and grace, finding hope in all circumstances, and remembering our baptisms, just to name a few. Attendance is steady and slowly growing, and we hope to share this time with you soon.

Worship & Ministry members are happy to assist you or answer any questions you have regarding regular, holiday and special service offerings. Members for 2025-2026 are Bart Carey, Pamela Schretzenmayer, Julie York and Doris Zegley. We look forward to speaking with you!



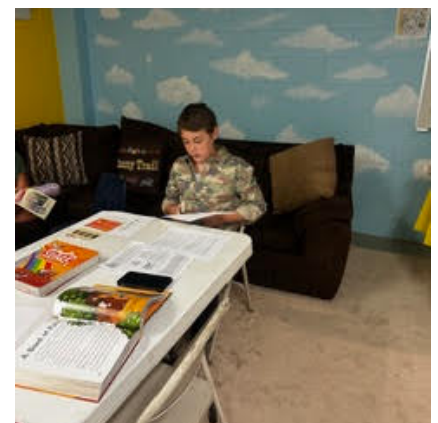
FAITH FORMATION

The new Church school year has kicked off, and we are busier than ever! We welcomed our new Faith Formation Coordinator, Stephen Cook, in October. Stephen brings with him experience working with children through his Master degree in Childhood Education, as well as certifications in Childhood and Special education. He has experience with theater productions as well. We are excited to have him join our team.



The children have been busy, learning many new lessons during Sunday school and applying it to real life scenarios. One favorite was from Luke 17:5-10, A Seed of Faith, where they learned that as long as you have a little bit of faith, God can help that grow into something much bigger. They made Seed Cards about how they trust God and show their faith. Be sure to check some of them out on display in Fellowship Hall!

The children have also been contributing to Church wide projects, including organizing and counting collected donations from the food drive and helping with the Anne's



Place Christmas tree making heart ornaments. We were able to distribute Bibles for 1st, 2nd, and 5th graders during Worship in October, and loved seeing how excited the children were as they peeked through the pages. We eagerly look forward to November when we will be helping to make lunches for Dorothy Day with Compassionate Kids, and December with our annual Christmas Pageant.



BIBLE SUNDAY

On Oct. 19, our first-, second- and fifth-graders received their Bibles, as well as our confirmands. Each group

received an age-appropriate edition, designed to engage them in God's Word.

Congratulations to: Damien Schmitt, Calissi Roman, Francesca Roman, Parker Beckett-Flores, Chloe Carey, Madelyn Mapes, Declan Martinez Keena, Hunter Rocco, Dominic Zegley, Megan Anderson, Elizabeth Cook, and Kevin Walsh.



CONFIRMATION

In October, our confirmands began preparing for their confirmation, which will be next June. We are looking forward to an engaging year of study, learning and questions with Megan Anderson, Elizabeth Cook, and Kevin Walsh.



BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

This year's blessing of the animals took place on Sunday, Oct. 5th. Several representatives of "man's best friend" came to the event and cordially made friends among themselves while awaiting their blessings.

We also blessed pictures of some feline friends who chose to remain home for the event 😊



FALL CLEAN UP DAY

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8th

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.



TIME AND TALENT - SHARING YOUR GIFTS

Lay Ministry Opportunities

The ministries of our congregation thrive and flourish with the help and support of many people in the congregation. In your pledge request packet, you will find a sheet of suggested ways to give of your time and talent. We all know that giving is more than just treasure, more than just money. Please give some thought to the ways that you can share the gifts and blessings you have received from God with the church and beyond, through our ministry.

FINANCIAL UPDATE - TREASURER'S REPORT - September 2025

INCOME/EXPENSE COMPARISON

INCOME SOURCE	2025
OFFERTORY COLLECTIONS	\$491.00
PLEDGES	\$11,617.69
THRIFT SHOP (including St Pauly's Corp)	\$2,697.46
PARSONAGE RENT	\$2,100.00
SPECIAL SERVICES	\$450.00
OTHER	\$280.83
TOTAL INCOME	\$17,636.98
EXPENSE	2025
PAYROLL	\$12,917.84
BUILDING & MAINTENANCE	\$4,813.36
OTHER MINISTRIES	\$496.80
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$18,228.00
NET OPERATING INCOME/(LOSS) FOR MONTH	(\$591.02)

Respectfully submitted by Greg Slomba, Treasurer



MISSIONS at CCNF

Compassionate Kids

little hands ~ loving hearts



The Compassionate Kids group will be gathering after church on Sunday, Nov. 9th, to make sandwiches and to bag cookie snacks that will be served at Dorothy Day. Please set aside a little extra time after church for this service opportunity.

FOOD DRIVE to Benefit

NF FOOD PANTRY

ARC's COMIDA PROGRAM

DOROTHY DAY HOSPITALITY HOUSE

RENEWAL HOUSE



The Mission Team held a collection for household and personal items to benefit Renewal House during the month of September. Then they collected food at Stop & Shop at the end of September. Three full truck loads were donated by the community of New Fairfield! These items were divided as needed between the NF Food Pantry, Renewal House, the Comida Program and Dorothy Day. The Mission

Team is very grateful as well to the children of the church who sorted and inventoried all of those items to make our jobs easier. All the organizations were extremely grateful for the help they received.



*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. 25th** and our next serving day is **Wednesday, Nov. 26th**. 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.



ANN'S PLACE FESTIVAL OF TREES

The Mission Team is donating a Christmas tree to the Festival of Trees to support the vital work Ann's Place on behalf of all those affected by cancer.. Our congregation, and especially our children, have been helping us to create the ornaments to decorate the tree. We will be attending the Festival as a group on Saturday, Nov 22. Please watch for the announcements in the bulletin and in church about carpooling and the time.

THANK YOU TO OUR THRIFT SHOP CREW!



Our Thrift Shop Team had a RECORD MONTH in October! Their sales for the two Saturdays totalled \$2905! And that does not include the income from St. Pauly's. We are so grateful for the tremendous work and effort they all give to the congregation with this ministry. Our wonderful volunteers were Melissa Ballas, Lisa Contreras, Oscar Contreras, Vivian Cicale, Maryann Gillotti, Tara Laverty, Dotty Norman, Joanne Riccoboni, Frank Saunders, Fanny Sequenza, Ann Taylor, Del Taylor, and Skyla Vecchia. The November Thrift Shop sales will be

Nov. 1 and 15 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.



SINGING OUR CHOIRS PRAISES!!!

Here is a picture of our Senior Choir for Choir Appreciation Sunday! We always appreciate the gifts of their time and talent they share each week with the congregation.

Would you like to join them in singing?

Newcomers are always welcome on Thursday evenings at 7:30pm or Sunday mornings before worship. Please speak with Rev. Carl Anderson or email him at canderson@masonicare.org



PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY - Tuesday, Nov 11th at 7:00 pm

The Prayer Shawl Ministry meets the 2nd Tuesday of the month and would love to have you come try out some purposeful crafting. Join them to knit or crochet or loom and for some fellowship in the conference room. All ages welcome. Bring size 13 knitting needles (long or circular), a size K or N crochet hook, or a long rectangular loom. Yarn will be supplied. The shawls we make are a loving gift for anyone in need. For more info, email prayershawl@ccnf-ucc.org.

If you would like to request a shawl, please call 203-746-2865 or email prayershawl@ccnf-ucc.org.



**American
Red Cross**

BLOOD DRIVE WEDNESDAY, 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>



PLEDGE STATEMENTS

Our Financial Secretary, Sally Kile, sent out 3rd quarter pledge statements this month. 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 plate. You will also receive a card in the mail with your pledge request packet. Please consider joining us in this care-giving ministry.

"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



Come to our Evening Prayer Service

Each month, evening prayer services are held on the first and third Tuesday at 7 p.m. These services are a chance to pause during your busy week and spend a little

time in peaceful worship. Come, catch your breath, feel

closer to God. These services include communion, and are not live streamed. The November services will be on

Tues, Nov. 4th and Nov. 18th at 7pm.



A TIME FOR FELLOWSHIP

Remember, if you are available to assist with fellowship after the Sunday worship service by providing snacks or helping with a simple set up or clean up, please sign up in Pilgrim Hall or call the church office at 203-746-2865. Thank you to those who have pitched in recently, and to Doris Zegley for coordinating.

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