

Congregational Church of New Fairfield, United Church of Christ
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CANDLELIGHT - SEPTEMBER 2026

Hello Beloved Children!

Happy Fall! It is hard to believe that we are wrapping up our summer already. We have had a beautiful time outdoors in our garden worship space this year. We will begin our worship back inside the sanctuary on Sunday, September 20th. This will coincide with the return of church school and our Senior Choir so that is a bonus to make coming inside worthwhile.

Our ministries and teams, which were somewhat quieter over the summer, have begun meeting and planning already and you will read in this newsletter all that is going on in our church community. We hope you will find ways to engage with us and to share your own gifts so that we can together be God's hands and feet, God's heart out in the world. We want to share the good news of the Gospel and offer hope to folks in need. Please consider the ways that you can be a part of this vital ministry.

Blessings and peace,
Pastor Liz



FAITH FORMATION

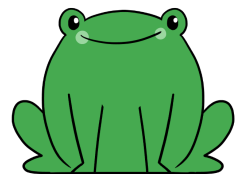
Faith Formation had a very relaxing summer and enjoyed the weather as service proceeded in the garden outside. Now, as we wrap up the summer months and look forward to the fall, we will once again be starting a new year of curriculum. Kicking off on September 20th will be the "Blessing of the Backpacks", a way for our students to not only start the school year off right but have some fun with crafts and activities. Faith

Formation made it a priority this summer to really find the most effective way to reach as many families and students as we can on an ongoing basis. If you are a parent in our congregation, as you see the flyers for September 20th around the church and online, be sure to scan the QR code and answer the short survey we created about curriculum and the program as a whole. We are excited to have another great year and can't wait to get started.



BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

Please join us Sept. 20 as our worship service returns to the indoor sanctuary, for the Blessing of the Backpacks. Students, please bring your backpacks with you for the blessing. All are welcome! This will also be the start of the new Sunday school year. Come enjoy button making as we begin this year's faith journey.



WORSHIP & MINISTRY

"Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually." - 1 Corinthians 12:27

Worship & Ministry members are happy to assist you or answer any questions you have regarding service offerings. Members for 2026-2027 are Will Anderson, Teri Czudak, Bart Carey, Julie York and Doris Zegley. We look forward to speaking with you!



Laity Sunday - September 27th

If you would like to participate in leading a part of worship, please speak with Pastor Liz. This special day will be led by the church community of faith. We need volunteers to read scripture, prayers and other worship parts.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

We were so happy to welcome new members in worship on Sunday, September 13th, Bob Ebbesen and Dorothy Milovic.



Bob has been attending CCNF for many years and keeps himself busy at home in New Fairfield. He has 3 adult sons and is a retired heavy equipment and crane operator who used to work in Manhattan.



Dorothy has also attended CCNF for many years and lives in New Fairfield. Dorothy works as a doctor and keeps busy as a volunteer as well supporting many missions at our church. She has a daughter Stephanie who was married this last year and lives in DC, a son Jonathon who lives in eastern CT and a son, Daniel going to graduate school in Baltimore.



ALL ARE WELCOME TO JOIN THE CHOIR!

Choir practice will resume on Thursday evenings at 7pm. All are welcome to come and give it a try. We also practice before worship on Sunday mornings if that is a better fit for you. For more information please contact Rev Carl Anderson at canderson@masonicare.org.



TRUSTEES CORNER –

The church Moderator, Michael Iadarola, joined our August meeting. The Trustees welcomed Michael to the position, and look forward to working with him during the coming year!

The Trustees have been busy working on several key items for the church including decisions on investment of donations to the church, reviewed the energy audit performed by Eversource Energy, repairs needed to the exterior of the church (soffit), maintenance on the kitchen sink, the office ceiling, and a discussion of the Parsonage lease renewal.

The Trustees are scheduling the annual Parsonage walkthrough with the tenant.

Looking forward, the Trustees will be reviewing the church budget to update and submit to the Church Executive Council.

We are always looking for folks to join the Trustees and continue their work to guarantee the church is here to serve the parishioners and the greater New Fairfield community. No past experience is needed – just your time and talents! We are happy to welcome you onto our team! If you are interested, please speak with Rev Liz or leave us a note in the Church Office. Thank you!



LOVING HEARTS - Gathering Together for Grief Support

When: First Tuesday of the month beginning on Tues, Oct 6th, at 6:30 - 7:45pm.

Where: CCNF Conference Room

Join us for a time of compassionate discussion for anyone dealing with issues of loss and grief. The group will be facilitated by Stephanie Shaughnessy, MSW and Pastor Liz Yoho. Please see either Stephanie or Pastor Liz to sign up or get more information. Feel free to also call the church office at 203-746-2865.

MAC & CHILI WRAP UP



It was a full house at the Great Mac & Chili Challenge last March, with lots of tasty recipes to try and funds to raise for our youth work trip to Appalachia. Congratulations to the winners in both categories!

Mac & cheese - First: Lisa Clavette. Second: Joe & Ezra Fostano. Third: Mark Anderson.

Chili - First: Will Anderson. Second: Tracy Yoho. Third: Jessica Garcia.

The real winners, were all who attended and had a good time for a good cause!

Below: Pilgrim Hall was full.



Below: Drinks & Desserts table.



Below: Checking the raffle baskets.



Appalachia Service Project

Summer trip 2027

We are heading to Appalachia!

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 about our plans for our work trip this summer. Join us on **Sunday, Oct 25th at 7pm** for an

informational meeting. Bring a friend, bring a parent! The people of Appalachia need our help and need the hope that we can bring when we work together. Contact Pastor Liz if you have any questions.



THE CHOSEN GROUP - Thursday, Oct 1st & Nov 5th at 6pm

Testament, The Parables Retold

Join us to watch the movie Testament over two evenings before we begin Season Six of the Chosen series. The Parables Retold is a movie that brings the teachings of Jesus to life in a bold new way. It is set in modern-day London, and reimagines the parables as contemporary stories of love, sacrifice, and justice—making ancient truths feel urgent and alive.

We will begin Season Six in December. Join us for a light dinner at 6pm and viewing will begin at 6:30pm. Please contact Pam Schretzenmayer or the church office for more information.





STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

The church we dream of building requires all of us – and all that God has entrusted to us.

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 gifts 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.

Romans 12: 5-6 reminds us that though we are many, we are one body in the union with Christ, and we are all joined to each other. So we are to use our different gifts in accordance with the grace that God has given us. And when we bring our gifts together, God can accomplish far more through all of us than any of us could accomplish alone. The vision we share for our church cannot be accomplished by a few people giving a lot. It happens when all of us prayerfully consider what we can give and faithfully respond.

Stewardship is ultimately about trust. For nearly three centuries, we have been blessed by faithful members of our congregation who came before us. never knowing our names yet trusting that one day we would receive the gift they so faithfully preserved.

They entrusted us with more than a building; they entrusted us with a living legacy of faith, community, and love. Now, it is our turn to be faithful stewards of the legacy.

In the 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, which is November 15th 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.

During this Stewardship month, we invite you to prayerfully consider what to give. Let us not give out of obligation but out of gratitude – for the blessing we have received, the church we cherish, and the opportunity to carry its legacy forward.

Blessings,
The Stewardship Committee

Be Proud of Our Church and Share It with a Friend! - Don't Keep Us A Secret



THANK YOU TO OUR THRIFT SHOP CREW!

Our Thrift Shop will be open on Saturday, Sept. 19th from 10am - 1pm.
Come in and find a bargain.

If you have a specialty clothing item that is new or in fantastic condition maybe you would want to donate this to the Thrift Shop for its online sales. While not everything is as wonderful as we think or wish, the church does benefit from this new way to sell merchandise.
Additional help from volunteers on Tuesdays or Thursdays would be appreciated.



MISSIONS at CCNF

DOROTHY DAY HOSPITALITY HOUSE

Our congregation has been supporting the ministry at Dorothy Day Hospitality House for decades! Thank you to all our volunteers who allow us to be a part of this ministry to those who are hungry in our area. Our Thrift Shop also supplies the clothing ministry with needed articles to be shared free of charge.

Our September service days will be Tuesday the 22nd for cooking and Wednesday the 23rd for serving. If you'd like to help on either of these days, sign up in Pilgrim Hall or call the church office at 203-746-2865.



*Serving at
Dorothy Day*



Laundry Love

Laundry Love partners with White Street Wash in Danbury to provide cards allowing people to clean their clothes. Our church began supporting the work of Laundry Love in 2025 after noticing the many requests for their services during our work at Dorothy Day. Volunteers can support Laundry Love by volunteering for an hour-long shift at the once a month event on the second Tuesday. For more information please speak with Mission Team member Bonnie Lees or Pastor Liz.



Fall Food & Pet Products Drive The Missions team is organizing a fall food drive to take place Oct. 17th outside the local Stop & Shop. We will also be accepting items at church on October 4th and 11th. Our annual food drive will support the NF Food Pantry, Dorothy Day Hospitality House, and the Comida Program at ARC.

The Mission Team will also be collecting items needed to support the important work of New Fairfield Sherman Animal Welfare. NFSAW provides care and compassion for adoptable animals and finds them loving families. Their vision is to expand their rescue efforts while continuing to positively impact the community and create a more humane world for animals and people.



WE NEED ANY OF THE FOLLOWING:

- | | |
|---------------------------|---|
| o Canned Tuna | o Shelf Stable Milk |
| o Canned Vegetables | o Granola bars, cereal bars, lunch snacks |
| o Canned Tomatoes | o Shampoo & conditioner, soap, toothpaste, shaving cream |
| o Tomato Sauce | o All-purpose cleaners, laundry detergent, liquid dish soap |
| o Canned Kidney Beans | o Paper Towels, toilet paper, tissues |
| o Instant Mashed Potatoes | o Diapers – sizes 4, 5, 6 |
| o Rice | o Wet or dry dog or puppy food |
| o Pasta, Mac & Cheese | o Wet or dry cat or kitten food |
| o Cereal & Oatmeal | o Pet treats |
| o Juice | |
| o Canned Fruit | |
| o Peanut Butter & Jelly | |



Ann's Place Festival of Trees

The Missions team will organize the church's participation in this year's Festival of Trees in November. This will involve decorating a creative Christmas tree entry for the festival. If interested in helping, please contact Stephanie Shaughnessy. We will attend as a group either on Sat or Sun, Nov 21 or 22, watch for an upcoming announcement if you would like to join us.

NEW FAIRFIELD SCHOOL STAFF APPRECIATION

Donations of cookies from church members and flowers were delivered to the offices of the three New Fairfield schools for staff on the first day of school.

Thank you to all our bakers and cookie providers, as well as our bouquet-makers. Your efforts brightened the days of the people who work so hard at our local schools.



Fun Fundraising *by Stephanie Shaughnessy*



Members of CCNF and friends participated in a 1-mile run/walk fundraiser for FiSH on Saturday, June 20th at the New Fairfield High School track.

The event included three waves- 9:30, 10:00 and 10:30. A free fun run for kids was also held.

Remember, FiSH is always looking for additional volunteers, especially drivers, so if you have some extra time and would like to volunteer for an excellent organization- please call 203-312-5627.



The Congregational Church of New Fairfield's Team, The Sol Trekkers, definitely ran and walked from the Sun on Thursday, August 20th. It poured and over 500 people braved the weather and walked and ran to raise money for Ann's Place. Ann's Place supports those with cancer and their families, providing all services for free. The Sol Trekkers goal was to raise \$1000 and in the end the team raised \$3000. Fun was had by all. We celebrated with a great barbecue at the end. Plans are already in action for next year. We welcome the community to join us!



Sol Trekkers gathered for a before photo while still dry...



Then, they went out and got drenched, but kept trekking - and smiling!



The last Sol Trekker makes it back in time for the BBQ!



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.