



CHURCH OF CHRIST, CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, NEWINGTON, CT

**Annual Reports
2025-2026**

Meeting to be held on
May 3, 2026 at 11:15 AM

**Church of Christ Congregational
Newington, CT 06111**

Call to Meeting, May 3, 2026

CALL TO MEETING

The Annual Meeting of the Church of Christ, Congregational, of Newington, CT will be held on Sunday, Sunday, May 3, 2026, at 11:15 AM following Church services.

The purpose of this meeting is to:

1. Receive the reports of the Officers, Boards and Organizations.
2. Present and approve the slate of officers that are to take place on June 1, 2026.

Beverly A Adamick

Beverly A. Adamick
Church Clerk

Dated: April 1, 2026
Newington, CT

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Special thanks to all the chairpersons, officers, and staff, who turned in timely, print-ready reports. As well as our volunteers, who contributed their time to assemble the reports.

Covenant of
Church of Christ, Congregational
Newington, Connecticut

We covenant with one another
to seek and respond
to the Word and the Will of God.

We promise to journey together
in the ways of the Lord,
made known and yet to be made known to us.

We bear witness to the gospel of Jesus Christ in all the world,
while worshipping God,
and striving for truth, justice, and peace.

As did our founders,
we depend on the Holy Spirit to lead and empower us
toward the triumph of righteousness and eternal life.

We acknowledge our continuing need of God's grace,
Jesus' love, the guidance of the Holy Spirit, and the support of
our community in the fulfillment of this Covenant.

Adopted: May 7, 2023

AFFIRMATIONS

At a large leadership retreat of our church in January 2006 a need was expressed to proclaim more clearly who we are and what we stand for as a church. Below is a list of affirmations that was voted by the church on May 6, 2007 and amended on May 5, 2019.

The Church of Christ, Congregational affirms these beliefs and commitments:

Vision Statement: United in Spirit and inspired by God's grace, we grow in faith and service.¹

Mission Statement: This Church joyfully gathers to worship God. We proclaim and teach the Gospel of Jesus Christ while growing in faith and service. We pray for one another and for all humanity.²

We acknowledge that we are all on a spiritual journey, so we are moved to accept a diversity of belief and doubt.³

We accept as full members, with complete access to the rites of the church, and to service within the church, people of good will and faith, regardless of race, color, ethnic origin, physical ability, sexual orientation and status in society. In employment we also provide an equal opportunity.⁴

We affirm the Bible as our primary source of inspiration and understanding of God, but we do not necessarily adhere to a literal interpretation of Scripture.⁵

We affirm our belief in Jesus Christ, the incarnate Son of God, made known through the Holy Spirit.⁶

We affirm the right and obligation of the church to raise concerns about issues facing society, to critique the institutions of society which foster injustice, violence, racism, sexism and ageism and to act in response to these concerns. We affirm the pastor's freedom of the pulpit to proclaim the Word of God as it challenges the congregation to serve God.⁷

We care for God's Creation by adopting and advocating environmental stewardship that will preserve and restore Creation for our descendants and for all living things on Earth.⁸

We affirm the priesthood of all believers, and hold that each member has rights, privileges and obligations in the governance of the church and in the furtherance of its mission.⁹

Our interpretation of Scripture and the guidance of the Holy Spirit lead us to a faith that is full of hope, optimism and forgiveness.¹⁰

¹ This vision statement was written by the church leadership at a retreat on February 2019.

² This Mission Statement was written by the Board of Deacons in the early 1990's for our by laws.

³ We are a non-creedal church, affirming the statement of one of our Congregational founding preachers, John Robinson: "God has yet more light and truth to break forth out of his holy Word."

⁴ At the leadership retreat in 2006 the strongest affirmation of our church's character was its acceptance of all people.

⁵ This is the way in which the UCC typically interprets scripture.

⁶ We maintain our Trinitarian roots in faith.

⁷ Our church has historically been engaged with the needs of society. The by laws affirm the pastor's "freedom of the pulpit." Random House Dictionary: *Institution*: 1) *an organization, establishment, foundation, society, or the like, devoted to the promotion of a particular cause or program, esp. one of a public, educational, or charitable character.* 4) *a well established and structured pattern of behavior or of relationships that is accepted as a fundamental part of a culture, as marriage.* 5) *any established law, custom, etc.*

⁸ Adopted from the UCC Connecticut Conference Environmental Ministry Team's mission statement.

⁹ We affirm the Protestant principle of the "priesthood or ministry of all believers." See the front of our bulletin. "Ministers: The People of the Church."

¹⁰ Input from the congregation suggested ending on a note of optimism and uplift.

Church of Christ Congregational Newington, CT 06111

Minutes of the Annual Meeting, May 4, 2025

The Annual Meeting of the Church of Christ, Congregational, of Newington, CT was called to order at 11:25 AM by Skip Collins, Moderator and Rev. Melanie Enfield opened with a prayer. Approximately 55 people were in attendance.

1. Receive the reports of the Officers, Boards and Organizations and delegates were distributed. All members had the opportunity to review the Annual reports prior to the meeting and were encouraged to read through all reports.

Motion was made to accept the reports as presented, there was a 2nd, no discussion and reports were accepted by unanimous vote.

2. Present and approve the slate of officers that are to take effect on June 1, 2025.

Motion was made to accept the Church officers and Board members for the June 1, 2025, there was a 2nd, no discussion and they were accepted by a unanimous vote.

Skip adjourned the meeting with a prayer at 12:02 PM.

Beverly A Adamick

Beverly A. Adamick
Church Clerk

Dated: May 4, 2025
Newington, CT

Church of Christ Congregational Newington, CT 06111

Financial Meeting, Sunday, February 1, 2026

The Annual Financial Meeting of the Church of Christ, Congregational, of Newington, CT was held on Sunday, February 1, 2026, at 11:25 AM following Church services. Approximately 51 people attended.

Heather Beattie-DeWitt called the meeting to order and Rev Melanie Enfield opened with a prayer. The boards, committees and congregation were thanked for their support.

The purpose of this meeting is to:

1. Receive the reports of the Treasurer, the Board of Christian Stewardship, and other financial reports of the Church.

- Jim Mulrooney, Treasurer reviewed the Receipt and Expense exhibits and the Balance Sheet.
- Tom Dunn managed the Restricted Future Generations Fund.
- Net Asset accounts were reviewed.
- The “Easy Giving” account is in the process of being reconciled.

A motion was made to vote and approve the above. It was seconded and unanimously approved.

2. Consider and adopt the proposed budget for 2025.

Mark Russell to present and reviewed the 2026 budget. There is a new line item on the 2026 budget which is for the monies that the Church has received from The Ann Marino Trust. The insurance premiums have increased.

A motion was made to vote and approve the budget It was seconded and unanimously approved. The 2026 budget was adopted.

Rev Melanie Enfield announced that we received approximately \$700,000 from Ann Marino’s annuity. This is being held until we receive the final numbers from her will.

Heather closed the meeting with a prayers at 11:37 PM..

Beverly A Adamick

Beverly A. Adamick
Church Clerk

Dated: February 1, 2026
Newington, CT

Moderator Annual Report 2025-2056

This past year has been one of transition, growth, and deep learning, and I am truly grateful for the opportunity to serve as Moderator. Throughout the year, I have had the privilege of presiding over Council meetings and working alongside dedicated leaders within our church community.

One of my goals has been to help foster connection among our congregation. Introducing “Donuts and Conversation” during coffee hour has been a simple but meaningful way to encourage fellowship and create space for us to get to know one another more deeply.

Council has engaged in important work this year, including strengthening our medical emergency procedures and refining building security and closing protocols in the absence of a weekend sexton. We have also reflected on broader trends in church leadership and their implications for our future, while maintaining a strong focus on deepening community and enhancing how we welcome and connect with visitors.

I have also been involved in several key initiatives, including assisting with the hiring of our Assistant to the Minister for Children, Youth, and Family. It has been a joy to help welcome new leadership into our church. In addition, I have helped to organize Ann’s Big Bash, a celebration that will bring our community together in a spirit of gratitude, giving, and joy. I now continue to serve on the committee overseeing Ann Marino’s financial legacy, helping to steward this gift with care and intention.

As we look ahead, we recognize that the coming year will bring another significant transition as Melanie prepares to retire in January. While change can be challenging, it also offers an opportunity for reflection, renewal, and growth. I have deep faith in this congregation's strength and trust in God’s guidance as we move forward together. With a shared commitment to one another and to our faith, we will navigate this next chapter with hope and purpose.

This year has been a time of transition, and with that have come both challenges and opportunities for growth. I am thankful for the support, grace, and collaboration of this congregation as we continue to move forward together in faith.

In gratitude and service,

Heather Beattie DeWitt

Church of Christ, Congregational – Newington, CT

Report of the Church Clerk 2025-2026

Membership as of April 16, 2026 _____ 680

Received:

By letter of transfer, confession, or
 Reaffirmation of faith of Membership _____ 5
 Reinstated _____ 0
 Confirmation _____ 10

Dismissed:

By Own Request /Transfer _____ 7
 By Deacons _____ 0
 By Death _____ 9

Gain/(Loss): _____ -1

Active Membership as of April 25, 2025 _____ **681**

Total Baptisms: _____ 11

New Members (5)		
Lesley Keener	Courtney Sharma	Cynthia Carter
Norman Carter	Gail O'Connor	
Confirmation (10)		
Leticia Isabel Martinez	Julia Lorraine Sheehan	Liam Everett Monroe
Neel Charles Sharma	Avery Jade Freese	Caleb Christopher Helvie
Toby Duarte Hermenegildo	Demari Rose Foster-Salter	Ethan James Harris
Julia Sheehan		
Baptism (11)		
Layla Ann Sheehan	Tyler Alexander Armstrong, Jr.	Isla Lynn Ferrara
Elsie Maureen Harrington	Sarah Piper Gray	Neel Charles Sharma
Julia Lorraine Sheehan	Lily (Tiger) Annabelle Sigall	Avery Jade Freese
Payton Diana Marston-Manning	Vivien Joy Garrido	

Deaths (9)		
Maureen Lynch	Dorothy Jacobs	Ernest Glabau
Ginger Croxall	Sterling Andrews	Gary Suess
Virginia Charnick	Peter Hermance	Allen R. Olmstead

Removed at own request/transfer (7)		
Devin Lavery	Katherine Lavery	Elizabeth McCormick
Jillian McCormick	Susan McCormick	Beth Read
Tobey Aubert		

Removed by Deacons (0)		

Inactive (68)		
Susan Allaire	Nathan Allaire	Lauren Barnicle
John Bower	Stephen Brookes	Lisa Burnham
Steve Colagiovanni	Michele Colagiovanni	Michael Colagiovanni
Lauren Colagiovanni	Caralyn Conners	Jonathan Conners
Thomas Conners	Rebecca Corcoran	Melissa Corcoran
Cary Cyr	JoDee Cyr	Sheridan Cyr
Cameron Cyr	Caylin Cyr	Wayne Estey
John Estey	Bruce Fairclough	Emilie Freitas
Erika Fuqua	Dawn Gagnon	Meghan Gagnon
Danielle Gagnon	Emma Gagnon	Timothy Gagnon
Michelle Gagnon	Jennifer Gagnon	Pietro Giammarco
Susan Giammarco	Maurice Goldberg	Marcia Griffin
Pamela Guida	Christina Hanan	Christopher Kelley
Nancy Klatt	Steven Klatt	Brian Klatt
Wendy Lentini	Kelly Maratta	Michelle Marko
Erika Marko	Nicholas Minutelli	Sharon Moore
Emily Moskites	Rachel Motta	Todd Muller
Susan Muller	John Noble	Amy Nobel
Allison Noble	Ryan Noble	Julie Olson
Casey Pettengill	Robert Post	Becky Presutti
Isabella Presutti	David Reynolds	Theresa Reynolds
Kathy Robinson	Alison Ryan	Craig Ryan
Rachel Ryan	Stephanie Vivier	

Annual Report 2026
Rev. Melanie Enfield
Senior Pastor

As I sit down to write this annual report, my last before retiring in January, I find myself reflecting on what a profound privilege this ministry has been.

To be invited into people's lives, especially in the tender and vulnerable moments, is something I have never taken lightly. Sitting at bedsides, standing with families in grief, celebrating joys, marking milestones, these are sacred spaces. To be trusted in those moments is both a blessing and an honor that has shaped me in ways I could never have imagined. Thank you.

And in a world that feels, at times, so unsettled and overwhelming, I am more convinced than ever that the church matters. We need places of hope. We need communities where people can come as they are, where they can speak honestly, be received with grace, and find a sense of peace. We need spaces that teach and model a different way of living than what the world so often tells us, that we are on our own, that we must compete, that we must hold tightly to what is ours.

Following Jesus calls us into something different. It is not always easy. It is often countercultural. But it is life-giving.

I have found deep joy in preaching and teaching, sharing God's word and pointing, again and again, to the light and love that guide us. And I have been especially encouraged this year by the many new faces who have come through our doors. Each person who walks in carries a story, a hope, a question, and it is our calling to make space for them, to welcome them into the life of this community.

And what a community this is. I am so proud of the ways you live out your faith through mission and outreach. Whether through Rise Against Hunger, Got Lunch Newington, ASP, your support of Neighborhood Promise, the town food bank, or the backpack drive, you show up with generosity and compassion. You don't just talk about love and generosity; you practice it.

It has been a joy to watch so many of you grow, stepping into your gifts, trying new things, and offering your time and talents in ways that build up this church. Somehow, through all our different strengths and personalities, God brings us together and shapes us into something beautiful.

We become a community of love. A place where people show up for one another. A place where God's Spirit is alive and active. And to be part of that, to help nurture and witness it, has been one of the greatest honors of my life.

Thank you for allowing me to walk alongside you.

I am deeply grateful for our staff, whose dedication and care have made it possible for me to do my work well. They help keep this church running smoothly, often in ways that go unseen, and their presence is a true gift to this community.

With deep gratitude,

Rev. Melanie Enfield

ANNUAL REPORT 2025-2026

From the Organist & Director of Music

We had a wonderful year together making music to praise God and celebrate life. The choirs (Youth, Adult, Handbell) all welcomed new members to their ranks, gratefully. We thank them continually for their dedication and talent.

There were many special highlights throughout the season: The concert by the Lisa Clayton Singers was a moving and powerful experience—gospel music sung with precision and passion! The Evensong at St. John's, West Hartford with our choir joining theirs reminded all in attendance of the incredible legacy the Anglican church has with its liturgical beauty and unparalleled choral music.

The Youth Choir looked outstanding on Easter Sunday, decked out in their new robes. Many thanks to the Thrift Shop for their generous donation to fund the purchase of the choir robes.

We are in discussions with the appropriate boards and committees to take our Adult Choir to the next level by the inclusion of paid staff singers. The addition of a paid tenor and bass to the men's section of the choir would transform the sound of the whole choir, and we hope to welcome them to the choir in the fall, if everything aligns.

I would refer you to the Annual Report from the Board of Music for an excellent, full and detailed survey of all things musical in our parish.

Thank you so much to all those in our choirs, our music librarian Kris Dunn, the church staff and clergy, the Board of Music, and everyone who supports our church's music in so many ways. I am always grateful for my presence among you all!

Peter Niedmann

Board of Trustees

Annual Report

2025-2026

The Board of Trustees has the responsibility as stewards of the church to oversee the maintenance of our property and the financial health of the church. Our church family continues to show amazing commitment with their time and finances. We are truly blessed.

Financials

First and foremost, I want to say thank you to all our members and nonmembers who have pledged or contributed to the fiscal health of our church. Without these gifts we would not exist. So, thank you!!

Our 2025 Annual Stewardship Campaign resulted in a total actual pledge amount of approximately \$442,095. This is an increase of \$16,095 over our 2025 budget. We maintained our basket/Non pledges income at \$19,000. However, we exceeded that amount by \$6,236 in the 2025 yearend report. Our Shared expenses income remained strong and steady. As part of our 2025 budget, we transferred the full amount of \$70,000 from our endowments. We ended the 2025 fiscal year with an income of \$26,275 more than our 2025 budget. Our Expenses were more than budgeted for the year by \$11,286.

The 2025 fiscal year ended with a Surplus of \$15,036. The trustees continue to navigate the financial needs of the church. We strive to maintain our talented staff, support the Christian education, Music, Mission and building maintenance. The Trustees are constantly monitoring the costs of operations including utility rates, insurance, maintenance cost, investments, along with use of building and safe access for everyone. We pray that God will continue to bless and guide us so that we remain a strong and vital church, performing his work every day.

Investments and endowments

We carefully observed our endowment funds, which grew substantially due to a strong 2025 market performance. **We have been extremely fortunate to have received a legacy gift from the Elmwood church. This gift is available for the general purposes of the church, and we look forward to creating wonderful new mission and outreach programs. In addition to the Elmwood gift, we received a generous Annuity from the Ann Marino Estate. Ann passed away in March of 2025. She was a longstanding member of the congregations and was always challenging us to find new ways to reach out into the community and spread Gods love and support. We will honor Ann as we look for new and exciting ways to keep her legacy alive and well for years to come.** As always, we seek to balance return vs. risk in accordance with our guidelines. We were able to use a conference expert to enhance our current Investment and Planned giving policies and guidelines. We continue to look at the most efficient way to invest our funds, and we navigate the current markets and stay consistent with our financial policies and procedures. Special thanks to the Investment Subcommittee. This group of experienced church members always have the best interest of the church in mind.

Maintenance

For building maintenance and repair, we continue to focus on ongoing preventative maintenance of our aging building. We successfully completed significant projects such as, but not limited to:

- We continued with the long-term plan of replacing windows in the building.
- Volunteers performed various projects throughout the building and our grounds.
- We completed the Narthex renovations. Including windows, carpet, paint, casework and information center and monitor to highlight the life of our growing church.

- We completed the renovations of the Chapel. This new Gathering Place has already seen significantly more use throughout the year.
- We continue to maintain our heating and air conditioning systems
- We performed exterior door panic and security locks

New Center Corp.

We continue to work closely with the dedicated church members who manage the New Center Corporation, on our behalf. The Board consists of Chairman Steve woods, Andy Grocki, Kent Stoddard, Jay Krusell, Paul Palaia and Neil Pade. Duncan Donuts continued to pay their lease which ended 2/26/2026. We have begun to advertise the vacant space. M&T Bank continues to operate and remains a very busy local branch. M&T has a 20-year lease ending in 2033 with two ten-year options.

Personnel

The church staff have been working very well. Michelle manages the staff and functions of the church extremely well. There isn't much Michelle can't handle and has grown into the position and has become a key component of our management successes. Mary-Jane DiPaola, our financial administrator, continues to perform the duties remotely. Mary Jane continues to perform her financial responsibilities very well. MJ works closely with the Trustees and the Treasurer to maintain a good standing with all our accounting and bookkeeping. Bria continues to perform her work responsibilities with ease and efficiency. There is increased video production and publishing that Bria handles weekly and monthly. The Sexton duties were performed by Bob Pinard and Glenn Casey. **Bob retired after 20 years!!** He rarely missed a Saturday or Sunday over that time span and we missed his presence. Both men perform their duties very well, keeping our building clean and safe for us all. We appreciate all their efforts. Tobey Aubert, our Program and Outreach coordinator, resigned in February. We have hired an assistant to the Pastor for Children, Youth and families. Lesley Keener has a strong educational background, and we look forward to her starting in July 2026. We have a very good staff, with impressive talents and skills. They all work very well together, with Rev. Enfield and the entire church volunteers.

Shared Expenses

We also want to extend a Thank you to all the other groups who share in the expense of church building. Baby Bees Preschool, Wellspring Ministries, Weight Watchers, and various groups such as Al-Anon, NA, MADD, and other one-time events. We continue to look for opportunities to share our building with members and outside groups.

Strategic Plan

As highlighted in our current Strategic plan, we are focusing on the third year of our plan and goals. That includes continuing the process of accessing our underutilized building spaces. We are open to new and exciting opportunities to offer spiritual and faith-based growth within our community. We continue to evaluate our ability to maintain our staff and offer competitive salaries and benefits.

Board Members

The current members of the 2025-2026 Board of Trustees are Paul Palaia, Dave Austin, Jen Andrade, Bob Batson, Mark Russell, Neil Pade, Joe Jones, John Tedesco Sr. and Deb Carabillo, and Jim Mulrooney (Treasurer). I need to express my excitement with this year's Board. New members Neil, John, Joe, and Deb have been able to jump in and participate in many ways. They all bring fresh perspective and talents to the work, discussions and decisions of our Board. I also need to thank Tom Dunn, Kent Stoddard, for their efforts with our investment committee. I am extremely grateful to each Trustee for their efforts and dedication to this church.

Sincerely,
Paul Palaia, Chair of Trustees.

Board of Deacons Annual Report 2025–2026

Team Deacon is an amazing group of people who are dedicated to the church and its spiritual wellbeing. Who are your deacons? Nancy Crawford, Peg Garrison, Jamie Harris, Dale Hasbrouck, Chuck Hasbrouck, Peg Kelly, Dave Kilpatrick, Jenn Laurito, Renee Lavoie, Janet Schneider, Theresa Swenor, and Mary Woods.

Much of the work of the deacons is behind the scenes. When you arrive for worship service and find the sanctuary set with candles, flowers, the hymn board updated and more, it is the work of the deacons on duty that week. When you see the communion table covered by a linen cloth and filled with trays of bread and juice, know that the deacons set that up for your communion experience.

In addition to communion, deacons are part of many church services, including weddings, funerals and memorial services, baptisms, and new membership.

Providing spiritually meaningful holiday seasons, the Deacons have presented beautiful Advent alterscapes. The board is most appreciative of the design creativity of Chris Boghosian and Mary Woods. For Christmas and Easter, the communion table and surround have had seasonal flowers. After these worship services, the flowers were distributed to designated church members under the leadership of the board.

Being an open and affirming church that is welcoming for everyone, the public has been kept aware of this with the display of Pride Doors near the church sign at the corner of Cedar and Main in June of the past three years. In the current state of political turmoil, it is especially important to proclaim the message of inclusivity. The Pride Doors will be on display again in June 2026.

Star Sunday continues this year. To keep our star word in our forefront, a church member speaks about the impact of their star word during a worship service about four times a year.

With leadership from the deacons, the Caring Ministry has been revitalized with new activities in addition to some favorites of the past. Caring Ministry has continued placing 'God Loves You' signs on people's lawns. It is a great outreach to members.

Deacons provided leadership for our church's role in the town Parks & Recreation Department's *Night of Lights*, a very successful community activity. This event requires many members volunteering, with the Deacons providing organization and coordination.

With Melanie's recent retirement announcement, the Deacon Board will be forming a Pastoral Search Committee slate to bring to the congregation for a vote of approval and commissioning.

In a church that does so much in service to God, the Board of Deacons feels blessed to serve.

Blessings,
Chuck Hasbrouck
Chairperson

Board of Christian Education

Annual Report

2025-2026

The Board of Christian Education had a very busy and productive year. In June, we were thrilled to once again host Children's Day, an outdoor celebration held on the front lawn. The event featured a clown who kept everyone laughing and entertained with balloon animals. We also offered single-serve ice cream from a local truck vendor at the back entrance. Additionally, we awarded six graduating seniors \$500 church scholarships, along with an additional \$500 Burgess Scholarship.

Throughout the summer, we focused on planning for the church school year, centered on the theme "Love Is Our Mission." The Board continued to meet primarily via Zoom, including special summer meetings dedicated to school-year planning. Tobey Aubert developed a custom curriculum aligned with the Sunday sermons for the fall season and continued this work through Advent. Following his departure, we implemented a special Lenten curriculum and then returned to our previous materials after Easter (Holy Moly, Seasons of the Spirit, and Be Bold). Julie Wacht and Concetta Conlogue rotated weeks in our PreK-K room along with a volunteer assistant. Grades 1-3 solicited volunteers from our CE Board and the Church to teach on a monthly rotation. Don and Vaille LaChance continued teaching 4th and 5th grades. Our 6th and 7th grade room switched to a weekly rotation with, Tonya Affricano, Skip Collins, John Tinkham, Jim Mulroony and Dagny Bronson. Lesley Keener has been assisting the board and will welcome her as Assistant for Children, Youth and Families in July.

In October, we hosted an open house to welcome parents, introduce teachers, and share more information about the church school program. We also conducted our annual church school fire drill. In December, we held our annual Christmas Family Party, which included a special visit from Santa, who read a story to the children. We also celebrated the Christmas Eve family service, which was enjoyed by all.

In February, we held our Souper Bowl drive to benefit the Newington Food Bank. This year, we transitioned from a drive-through format to partnering with the Caring Cart. While we hope to continue this partnership, we aim to increase participation in the future.

We look forward to celebrating Confirmation in April and hosting another successful Children's Day in June.

As always, we are deeply grateful to the volunteers who support our youth in their faith formation, as well as to the outstanding leadership of Rev. Melanie Enfield. Her patience, energy, and guidance are invaluable. We also extend our thanks to Tobey Aubert for strengthening our faith formation programs during his time with us. We look forward to continued collaboration in connecting church school families more closely with the church's mission and outreach efforts.

Respectfully submitted,

Dagny Bronson, Chair

Members: Angela Buccheri-Duran, Julie Wacht, Angela Tedesco, Kati Roman, Lena Kiriyan, Angela Crasper

Missions and Social Action Board Annual Report 2025-2026

The new committee year began in June 2025.

This year our committee members continue to be the contact people and experts for our various benevolence partners. This has allowed our committee members greater involvement and ownership of our benevolence program and has enhanced our relationship with the agencies we serve.

The Caring Cart is a grocery cart that is found in the narthex and is used to collect weekly nonperishable food, personal hygiene items and cleaning products that have been requested by the Newington Human Services Department. Having a mission committee member responsible for being in regular contact with the agency and relaying the needs of the NHSD to the congregation has meant that those immediate requests are met. We are very fortunate to have such a generous congregation who fill the cart every Sunday. All donations are delivered weekly to the NHSD by a committee member.

We are no longer able to send a benevolence offering to Congo. The civil unrest and lack of stability in the country have forced our contacts to leave for fear of their personal safety.

We continue to provide service opportunities for the congregation that require only a short-term commitment.

- Rise Against Hunger - In September 2025 we held our first Rise Against Hunger event. This was a multi-tiered event that involved fundraising over \$5000.00, recruiting 75+ volunteers to set-up, pack 12,000 meals and clean up.
- Community Dinner – In October we continued offering the community dinners which have been a great success and have many opportunities for parishioners to volunteer. We recruit between 15 - 20 volunteers per dinner with youth and adults participating in set-up, meal prep, cooking, serving and clean-up. We invite the Newington Got Lunch families, distribute flyers to Newington Social Services, the Thrift Shop, Senior Center, Library, Karma's Closet, The Community Room, and throughout senior housing in town. Lawn signs are used on the church grounds and the community sign holder at Main and Cedar. We consistently serve between 85 and 90 people a month with March 2026 dinner being the largest to date serving 118 meals.

In July 2025 a beloved committee member committed suicide which has prompted the board to create a suicide prevention initiative. We created informational posters and have enlisted four parishioners to be navigators for the church. These individuals will be attending a suicide prevention training program which will educate them to recognize certain signs that someone may be struggling with thoughts of suicide. We are working

diligently to get this program up and running for Suicide Prevention Month in September. We are also hoping to host Dr. Georgia Powell, who is a suicide prevention specialist, present a program in September.

At the end of October 2025, we begin to prepare for the Pluck a Turkey event which provided baskets with all the fixings for a complete Thanksgiving meal to five families which exceeded the number of baskets promised to the Friendship Center. We had left over food items which were delivered to Newington Human services

In December 2025 the Giving Tree supported the general needs of the Friendship Service Center in New Britain with two carloads of items, Newington Human Services with their wish list of items and Neighborhood Promise with the requested gift cards.

We continued to support Greater Hartford Interfaith Action Alliance (GHIAA) and Tobey Aubert and Karen Serio continued to represent our church in 2025.

In March 2026 we held a month-long fundraiser for Camp Hispaniola which was founded and is run by former parishioner Marc Regis. The camps which are in Haiti and the Dominican Republic run for two weeks in the summer for children and have been a mission focus for the past three years. This year we raised \$1120.11 for the camp.

We continue to give to Global Ministry Sponsorship program and are currently supporting three children. The children are from India, the Philippines, and Jamacia.

The Mission Board has served with open hearts and has given generously of their time and talents this past year. They are great supporters of the church and the wider community.

Respectfully submitted,

Liz Palaia

Liz Palaia

Mission Board members include Michele Roy – secretary, Bill Ford, Judy Niedzielski, Michelle Lawson, Melissa Miller, Brian Alemany, and Carol McGregor

Board of Music Annual Report 2025-2026

"There is nothing in the world so much like prayer as music is. Prayer, like music, expresses our deepest needs and desires." As members of our beloved Church of Christ and members of the Music Committee this past year, we have been extremely fortunate to once again join together and express ourselves in many meaningful musical ways.

Under the dedicated leadership of our talented Musical Director and Organist, Peter Niedmann, the music program at Church of Christ continues to be an integral and inspiring part of our worship services. Within the walls of our church and beyond, Peter's talents as an organist and pianist, along with his directing, arranging, and integrating appropriate music within each service, are renowned - and we are so very fortunate to have him and his presence among us.

Each Sunday, our dedicated adult and children's choirs enhance our worship services with uplifting anthems, beautifully guiding us through the season's scriptural messages. Also, we give thanks to our dedicated members of the handbell choir, along with several talented substitute ringers, who have all continued to bring joy to our congregation on a monthly basis.

It is said that "Even seasoned musicians might miss a note here and there! Yet who would trade, in favor of other perfection, the thrill of hearing- and savoring- their melodies?" With hearts always full, the instrumentalists and choirs each play and sing to the Glory of God.

Throughout the year, we have indeed been very grateful to some of our own members who have shared their beautiful musical talents with us, and for immensely blessing us with another special dimension of prayer and worship.

We extend special thanks to Janet Schneider for accompanying the congregation on the piano during a month in the summer when Peter was on vacation. Her choral directorial talents with our youngest children in the Cherub Choir has undoubtedly been a labor of love as well as a joyful gift to our congregation.

It is also with our heartfelt thanks and abundant gratitude that the Music Board thanks our church's thrift store, and most importantly its workers who donate their time and energy on a weekly basis, for the very generous gift of funds to purchase new choir robes for our youth choir. After approximately 20 years of use, the robes were in definite need of replacing. We always know that the young people sing beautifully, and now they will have the new opportunity to look and feel that way too!

In October 2025 the Music Committee created a survey eliciting the feelings, opinions, and ideas from the congregation as to ways we might expand or enhance the choral, instrumental, and other musical programs here at church. We have dedicated our efforts throughout the year as we compiled and assessed the results of the surveys in a timely manner. We began to include the backgrounds of some hymns sung at Sunday morning worship services in the order of worship. We have also been exploring ways of implementing suggestions which have included a broader mix of musical genres (contemporary, gospel, folk, jazz) and offer them during services. Flexible participation in the choir has remained an important focus as well. We certainly appreciated each and every response which was shared with us and the committee will remain focused on implementing even more ideas in the future. A continuous blend of modern styles while maintaining traditional strengths will always be a desired goal of the music committee.

Once again, the Sacred Steel Band enhanced our worship service in November 2025, as did the members of the Hot Cat Jazz Band in March 2026. Congregants were definitely feeling their music as evidenced by swinging, swaying, clapping and singing to their songs!

Our Board of Music also participated and shared in the Church Committee's Fair in February in fellowship hall, meeting and greeting many people who we were delighted to talk with and expressed interest in learning more about our music programs. There were several individuals who were delighted to ring a handbell or chime for the first time!

We are so pleased to report that we have had another very successful and enjoyable public concert season, which once again has been free to all who have attended. Annual donations made by individuals are noted in each program, if desired. Monetary donations made at each concert are always graciously and gratefully received because they truly are what make our "free concerts" possible.

The following special concerts were offered to the public from Oct. 2025 through April 2026... and always enjoyed by those in attendance and sometimes also online.

Oct. 19, 2025 - Lisa Clayton Singers

Lisa and her singers definitely stirred our souls and made the walls in our Sanctuary sing out as well!

Nov. 14, 2025 - Prog Rock with Peter Niedmann, Pianist

Peter shared his talents, playing Emerson, Lake and Palmer, Genesis, and others... along with an impressive light show.

Dec. 14, 2025 - Christmas by Candlelight

A traditional favorite for so many during the busy holiday season was evidenced by a packed congregation. It included carols with choirs, handbells, orchestra, and organ. As always, it was a concert of joy and peace as we all awaited the birth of our Savior. A holiday reception filled with finger foods and sweets (thanks to all of the volunteers who brought goodies) was hosted by the Music Committee in Fellowship Hall following the concert. Special thanks to the hospitality committee for their unwavering support of this event.

Feb. 8, 2026 - Nicholas Capozzoli, Organist

His prize-winning organist skills while playing compositions by Bach, Laurin, and others (including himself) coupled with his delightful personality were totally enjoyed by those present (despite the fact that he competed with extremely cold weather and the Super Bowl!).

Mar. 8, 2026 - UConn Sings!

Once again Notes Over Storrs, and two other a cappella groups sang incredible a cappella selections which thoroughly delighted an almost full sanctuary. Their blended voices were all definitely gifts from God.

Apr. 19, 2026 - Peter Niedmann, Pianist

Whenever Peter's talented hands and fingers are playing piano keys, the compositions from Chopin, Corera, Mozart, and others are definitely played with great precision and feeling. It's always wonderful to congratulate him with ovations and genuine applause!

Upcoming Concerts and Performances closing out our concert series in 2026 include:

May 17, 2026 - Spring Pops!

Music of the Beatles, Les Misérables, The Phantom of the Opera, Suff's, and Neil Diamond will be performed by our choirs, orchestra, and handbell choir. You won't want to miss listening (and maybe even humming along) to some of your favorite music, along with attending a reception following the concert in Fellowship Hall.

Upcoming Musical Events closing out this year's performances:

May 30, 2026 - The Youth Choir will be singing with other area choirs at Trinity College Chapel as participants in the Evensong performance. All are welcomed to this sacred and beautiful musical service.

July 5, 2026 - Bells on the Green - Listen to light Carillon music on the church lawn on a summer evening. Bring a friend(s), your own chair, and your own snacks and beverages for a time of relaxation and musical favorites ringing out from our own church's steeple.

July 8, 2026 - Choir members will once again be singing the National Anthem at a **Yard Goats game**. If you like to sing, you might consider joining them. More information can be shared by speaking with our Director of Music.

Each of our concerts always have ushers "on duty" and to those individuals who volunteered throughout the year, we give you our sincerest thanks! Members are always encouraged to help out in this capacity (for one or more concerts) and can contact any music committee member at any time.

Thank you to our chairperson, Christine Boghosian, for keeping us all on track these past two years. Your leadership, organizational skills and kindness made everything so much easier for the board.

In closing- may our church bell, with its prominent and often heard musical sound, always ring out that Church of Christ is a welcoming congregation and that our doors are open so that strangers can become new friends, and that all who hear and long for God's word will know His word through music as well.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Boghosian, Chairperson

Sage Campbell

Kris Dunn

RitaMarie Haeseler-Andrade

Cindy Kaiser

Janet Machol

Grace Miller

Peter Niedmann, Music Director

JoAnn Scott

GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2026

Our year started with our annual Sundaes on Wednesday give away event held during Extravaganza week. Many volunteers from the church, the backbone of many of our events, manned a toppings bar that transformed the 200 cups of ice cream into delicious sundaes. A second community event, the Night of Lights, provided us with an additional opportunity to advertise our church to non-members. We invited the community to join us in transforming the Gathering Place into a showcase for Gingerbread Houses. Many individuals and groups displayed their houses for the long lines of people that admired them. We also sponsored a gingerbread house decorating event during a coffee hour in December. Young and old alike cheerfully decorated their homes. (Thanks to the top secret Russell Gingerbread Recipe)

In October we hosted a special World-Wide Communion coffee hour. People were asked to bring in a treat that represented their home country, helping us all realize that the God we worship is prevalent in many other parts of the world. In January the church showed us once again that consuming 120 donuts in a single coffee hour is no big deal. Another food themed event is our annual night out dinner at Puerta Vallarta, with money raised helping to support church activities.

We also hosted our annual Bingo Night, where over 70 people attended this family event, competing for fun prizes and enjoying an ice cream sundae. Something new this year is an afternoon at the "Circus Fire", where 40 people enjoyed the Theatreworks production of this compelling human drama. Also in April we hosted our annual Rookies Challenge, an event geared towards new and potential members. They face off in several challenges, all in the name of team building and cooperation.

Our year ends in June when we host the Progressive Dinner. Those attending go to one location for appetizers, another for dinner, and all return to the church for some yummy strawberry shortcake. It is a great way to meet people in a relaxed setting. The purpose of this event, and all others that we sponsor during the year, are focused on bringing people together so the church can continue to grow in numbers and faithfulness. We are constantly reminded that all things start with God, and we must do our part to advance God's message, in a variety of ways. We are honored to have that privilege as a committee.

Thanks to Tonya Africano, Concetta Cologne, Pete Donahue, Elizabeth Kostreva, Kara Russell, Jerome Manning, and Pete Donahue for all they do and all the creativity they generate. A special shout out to our Emcee, Jim Mulroony.

Faithfully submitted by Jon Tinkham, Chair of the Growth and Development Committee.



The theme for this year's Stewardship Campaign was "A Future With Hope". We enjoyed a very successful campaign thanks to the generosity of our church membership.

This year's results are:

Total Pledges: 175

Number of Increased Pledges: 71 (41%)

New Pledges Received: 11

Total Pledge Amount: \$406,496

This year's stewardship committee consisted of: Beverly Adamick, James Harris, Jim Mulrooney, Dave Austin, and Ed Liedke

Blessings,

Ed Liedke

Chairman

Market Square Thrift Shop

The mission of Market Square Thrift Shop is to provide used clothing and household items at reasonable prices to the community and donate funds to organizations who support those in need and church programs. To accomplish this, our members and friends are invited to donate clothing and household goods which are clean and in good condition. Donations are accepted during operating hours. The shop thrives because our customers know we provide quality merchandise and an ever-changing inventory.

Our volunteers spend many hours sorting and pricing donations and keeping the store looking fresh and appealing. They work two-hour shifts, staffing the shop from 11 am to 3pm Wednesday through Saturday. Without their dedication and reliability, the shop could not function. We always welcome (and need) new volunteers.

This year the shop has been able to fund and support several different requests and projects. They are Got Lunch Newington, ASP, the concert series, church golf tournament, steeple lighting, Rise Against Hunger and the purchase of new robes for the junior choir.

Thank you to all our donors and particularly the volunteers who staff the shop.

Market Square Thrift Shop

ASP 2025

ASP provides one of the most rewarding structured service opportunities in the nation—bringing thousands of volunteers from around the country to rural Central Appalachia to repair homes for low-income families. Since 1969, they've made homes warmer, safer, and drier for families and provided transformational service experiences for volunteers. Each year, more than 15,000 volunteers serve with ASP, providing critical repairs for more than 350 families.

In 2025, our Church sent a group of 33 strong - in six teams, and served four families. Our Church has been a proud and active supporter of this mission, sending more than 350 different individuals over more than **three decades**.

Each year, ASP selects an overarching theme and a Bible verse. The ASP 2025 theme was *Be the Light* with Matthew 5:16 as the verse: *"In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."* It seems a natural fit for us to recognize that our good deeds illuminate God's love for all.

But the good deeds we saw extended far beyond the 33 people who organized, mobilized, and headed south to help our brothers and sisters in need. First, without the support of our Church, we could not spread the light of God in this mission; we are extremely grateful for that. Next was the support we found on our journey to Appalachia. This year, we were witnesses to good deeds in abundance. St. Stephen United Church of Christ in Harrisonburg, VA* quickly and enthusiastically responded to our outreach for a place to set up our cots for the night. Not only did they provide a great place to recharge, but their community came out in full force to provide an incredible home-cooked dinner and an amazing breakfast the next day! They even included gifts like band-aids and hand sanitizers to aid us in our work.

Additionally, we experienced good deeds throughout the trip: from our amazing youth treating each other and our adult leaders with respect, to our leaders showing patience and understanding, to our host families extending love back to us through their deep devotion to family and community.

Our trip took us to Wise, VA, where we split into teams to tackle projects aimed at making houses warmer, safer, and drier. One of the mottos of ASP is that it is a "relationship ministry with a little construction on the side." This was certainly the feel again this year. We, of course, got our projects done—and while there were challenges to overcome, we did it! But the construction is always secondary. Seeing our youth grow in confidence and spirituality is what truly makes ASP an amazing adventure.

ASP 2025 was another tremendous success!

Honor and Memorial Gifts Committee Annual Report for 2025-2026

The Church of Christ, Congregational welcomes gifts given in memory of a loved one or in honor of a living person who has been a part of our lives, our church, and our community.

The Committee handles bequests to the program, oversees the purchase of items on the approved Gifts List, works with the families and/or donor, and recognizes all gifts in the Annual Report.

Purchases made during May 1, 2025 and April 30, 2026 include –

1. Narthex Welcome table, TV monitor, and Welcome sign in memory of Cynthia Tinkham.

Honor and Memorial Gift List – Current Approved List

1. Rebind hymnals as needed
2. Handbells for Handbell Choir
3. Outside Banner for North Side of Church
4. Chalice/Communion ware for Intinction during services
5. Fellowship Hall chair caddies (2) to store unused chairs in North closet
6. Banners for Sanctuary (similar to Awe and Joy that we have now)

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Warren
Lee Gray
Kit Bon

Memorial Garden Committee Annual Report for 2025-2026

**Fear not.....I died and behold I am alive forevermore.
Revelations 1:18**

The Memorial Garden was established in 2001 as a final resting place for church members and their immediate families. Surrounded by beautiful shrubs, trees, and flowers, it provides a tranquil setting for family and visitors to rest, meditate, pray, and remember loved ones.

The maintenance of the Memorial Garden is supported by donations that help pay the ongoing expenses, approximately \$3,000 a year, to keep it looking beautiful. We thank Deb Caserta for providing her time and talents to plant and maintain the flowers and weed the gardens during the year. We also appreciate the work done by Stonehenge Landscaping over the years to maintain all the gardens around the church, we are very grateful.

Over the past 25 years, we have interred the ashes of over 50 church members and their immediate family members. The name of each person is listed on granite markers within the garden. There is also a Book of Remembrance in the south hallway by the doors leading to the garden that contains the names of loved ones interred and those who have been memorialized through a donation to the Memorial Garden Fund.

Donations are greatly appreciated and if you are interested in helping to support the ongoing maintenance of the Memorial Garden, you can donate online or directly to the church office. Please include 'Memorial Garden' in the memo line.

If you haven't visited the Memorial Garden lately, please take a few minutes to stop by and enjoy the beauty and tranquility.

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Lavery
Judy Warren

RaiseRight Committee

2025 Annual Report

In 2025 we had earnings of just over \$6,300, which is significantly lower than the \$10,000 we booked in 2024. This was partly due to a drop from the record gift card sales of 2024, and also due to the absence of the credit card rebate from our grocery card purchases. The rebate (approximately \$2,000) has previously been recorded every December, but the rebate earned in 2025 was recorded as a January 2026 transaction. We have no control over this decision, and don't know whether the 2026 rebate will be recorded in 2026 or 2027.

Our team continues to function very well together, and we have welcomed Thea Beattie to the group.

We continue to encourage online ordering and electronic payments. We continue to benefit from Melanie's support and I'm hopeful that her replacement will support the program as well.

Respectfully Submitted,
Donna Cagen
4/20/2026

The Report of the Board of Nominations
April 17, 2026

The Board of Nominations is pleased to present for consideration to the membership of Church of Christ, Congregational, Newington, Connecticut the following list of nominees (underlined) for the year June 1, 2026, to May 31, 2027. This Board has endeavored to include as nominees some new church members as well as other members of all age groups to help bring new ideas to the various offices and boards.

Officers to June 2027

Moderator: Heather DeWitt
Treasurer: Jim Mulrooney
Assistant Treasurer: Ed Liedke
Church Clerk: Cheryl Liedke
Auditor:
Assistant Auditor:
Historian: Jon Tinkham &
Susan Hutcheon

Board of Deacons (12)

Serving to June 2029
Elizabeth Kostreva

Serving to June 2028
Chuck Hasbrouck
Dale Hasbrouck
Margaret Peg Garrison

Serving to June 2027
Theresa Swenor
Jamie Harris
Jennifer Laurito
Nancy Crawford
Janet Schneider
Mary Woods
Renee Lavoie
Bryce Crapser

Board of Trustees (10)

Serving to June 2029

Serving to June 2028
John Tedesco, Sr.
Deb Carabillo
Mitch Page
Josie Keen
Karen Serio

Serving to June 2027
Paul Palaia
Dave Austin
Mark Russell
Jennifer Andrade
Neal Pade

Board of Christian Education (6)

Serving to June 2029

Serving to June 2028

Serving to June 2027

Angela Tedesco
Katie Roman
Julie Wacht
Angela Crapser
Tricia Burnham
Courtney Sharma

Board of Sacred Music (6)

Serving to June 2029

Daysha Haxton

Serving to June 2028

Dave Kilpatrick
Peg Kilpatrick

Serving to June 2027

Cindy Kaiser
Pat Lavery
JoAnn Scott

Board of Missions and Social Action (9)

Serving to June 2029

Serving to June 2028

Bill Ford

Serving to June 2027

Michelle Lawson
Melissa Miller
Brian Alemany
Liz Palaia
Carol McGregor
Michelle Roy
Joe Jones
Sarina Haggett

Growth & Development (7)

Serving to June 2029

Patricia Tedesco

Serving to June 2028

Serving to June 2027

Tonya Affricano
Concetta Conlogue
Jerome Manning
Kara Russell
Pete Donahue
Victoria Keen

Board of Christian Stewardship (5)

Serving to June 2029

Dave Austin
Jamie Harris

Serving to June 2028

Serving to June 2027

Ed Liedke
Beverly Adamick
Jim Mulrooney

Board of Collectors (6)

Serving to June 2029

Serving to June 2028

Maggie Essex
Katrina Mattern

Serving to June 2027

Barbara Mead
Deb Jeanfaivre
Robin Jones
Sherry Affleck

Board of Ushers (7)

Serving to June 2029

Serving to June 2028

Serving to June 2027

George & Gail Verheyen
Paul & Susan Hutcheon
Peter Tinkham
Matt Sigall and Family
Joseph "Skip" Collins
Joyce Thorner
Jon Tinkham

Board of Hospitality (9)

Serving to June 2029

Serving to June 2028

Serving to June 2027

Nancy Crawford
Deb Sanborn
Susan Hutcheon
Ursula Hunt
Steve Woods
Tricia Burnham
Patricia Tedesco
Sue Robinson
Yelena Kiriyan

Memorial Gifts Committee (3)

Serving to June 2029

Serving to June 2028

Serving to June 2027

Judy Warren
Kit Bon
Lee Gray

Memorial Garden Committee (2)

Serving to June 2029

Serving to June 2028

Serving to June 2027

Patricia Lavery
Judy Warren

Board of Planned Giving (2)

Serving to June 2029

Serving to June 2028

Serving to June 2027

Judy Warren
Tom Dunn

Board of Nominations (4)

Serving to June 2029

Serving to June 2028

Serving to June 2027

Joseph "Skip" Collins

Steve Woods

Pete Donahue

Melissa Harris

Liaison to Avery Heights

Paul Stewart

Board of Market Square Thrift Shop (5)

Linda Stewart

Vaille LaChance

Deb Jeanfaivre

Peg Schwanda

Sherry Affleck

Delegates (1-year terms)

Central Connecticut Association, United Church of Christ

Deb Jeanfaivre

Melissa Harris

Jim Mulrooney

Janet Schneider

Jon Tinkham

Southern New England Conference, United Church of Christ (3 + 1 alternate)

Karen Serio

Jim Mulrooney

Newington Interfaith Housing Corp. & Southfield Children's Center (2)

William Hall

Stephen Woods

Respectfully Submitted,

Pete Donahue

Melissa Harris

Ed Liedke

Steve Woods

Board of Nominations