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

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**Annual Reports  
2023-2024**

Meeting to be held on  
May 5, 2024 at 11:15 AM

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

**Call to Meeting, May 5, 2024**

**CALL TO MEETING**

The Annual Meeting of the Church of Christ, Congregational, of Newington, CT will be held on Sunday, Sunday, May 5, 2024, 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, 2024.
3. Affirm our Focus Language for our Church:



*Beverly A Adamick*

Beverly A. Adamick  
Church Clerk

Dated: April 8, 2024  
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.<sup>1</sup>*

*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.<sup>2</sup>*

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

*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.<sup>4</sup>*

*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.<sup>5</sup>*

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

*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.<sup>7</sup>*

*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.<sup>8</sup>*

*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.<sup>9</sup>*

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

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

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

<sup>3</sup> 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."

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

<sup>5</sup> This is the way in which the UCC typically interprets scripture.

<sup>6</sup> We maintain our Trinitarian roots in faith.

<sup>7</sup> 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.*

<sup>8</sup> Adopted from the UCC Connecticut Conference Environmental Ministry Team's mission statement.

<sup>9</sup> 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."

<sup>10</sup> 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 7, 2023

The 300<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Church of Christ, Congregational, of Newington, CT was called to order at 11:24 AM with a prayer by Skip Collins, Moderator. Approximately 60 people were in attendance between the in person and online Church members.

There was a correction to the deacons and it was confirmed that Susan Kalman is a member of the deacons. Her name was accidentally omitted from the annual report.

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 are encouraged to read through all reports.

**Motion was made to accept the reports as presented, there was a 2<sup>nd</sup>, 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, 2023.

**Motion was made to accept the Church officers and Board members for the June 1, 2023, there was a 2<sup>nd</sup>, no discussion and they were accepted by a unanimous vote.**

3. Present the revised Church Covenant. The September 22, 1963 version and the revised version dated May 2023 are attached.

Prior to presenting the revised Church Covenant, Chuck Hasbrouck, gave a background as to the purpose of the Covenant which actually dated back to the 1500s of England. The revisions then went from the deacons to the council and the council approved.

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

The bylaws were changed as follows:

- 1) replacing the old covenant with the new one,
- 2) replacing the old mission statement with the new one adopted a year or two ago. (#2 was to correct an omission when the new mission statement was first adopted.)

**Motion was made to accept the revised Church Covenant as of the May 7, 2023 date, there was a 2<sup>nd</sup>, no discussion, the revised Church Covenant and updated bylaws were accepted by unanimous vote.**

Chuck Hasbrouk closed the meeting with a prayer at 11:39 AM.

*Beverly A Adamick*

Beverly A. Adamick  
Church Clerk

Dated: May 7, 2023  
Newington, CT



Church of Christ Congregational, Newington, CT  
Minutes of the Annual Financial Meeting  
Sunday, February 4, 2024

The Annual Financial Meeting of the Church of Christ Congregational was called to order by Skip Collins, Church Moderator, at 11:20 AM. Approximately 50 + members were in attendance and quorum was met. We met in the Church Sanctuary. Reverend Melanie Enfield opened the meeting with a prayer. Skip Collins chaired the meeting.

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

All members had the opportunity to review the Annual Financial Reports prior to the meeting and they were encouraged to read and review the information in the reports. Jim Mulrooney, Treasurer, reviewed the following:

We had a very good year financially and we are financially sound. Jim reviewed the exhibits in the report.

Heather Beattie DeWitt reviewed the budget in detail for both the 2023-2024 year and for the 2024-2025 year. The 2023-2024 year was used as a plan for the 2024 year. The endowment transfer is 5% and the most we can transfer is 6%. The actual budget has a credit totaling \$9,142. For further details, see exhibit in the 2023 Financial Reports.

Mark Russell joined the Trustees in October 2023 and will be taking over as budget coordinator.

Kent Stoddard ask to clarify the endowment interest and Mark explained how it worked.

Julie Wacht asked about the shared expenses from the tenants and that was explained.

**2. Consider and adopt the proposed budget for 2024.**

**Motion was made to approve the 2024 Church of Christ budget as presented. There was a second. The Church of Christ Congregational 2024 budget was approved by unanimous vote.**

Paul Paiaia thanked all those who were involved in the budget process.

Skip asked for if there were any other questions and discussion.

Skip Collins ended the meeting with a prayer at 11:40 AM.

**A motion was made to adjourn the meeting and was accepted by unanimous vote.**

Respectfully submitted,

*Beverly Adamick*

Church Clerk

## Moderator's Report 2024

Reflecting on the past twelve months at Newington UCC I sense a lot of positive energy and expanding potential. Led by Pastor Melanie I see growth on Sunday's the pews dotted with new faces and families. Growth potential with the addition of Tobey Aubert to our church adding his passion and skills to help us further explore and expand our community partnerships and outreach. Growth in our stewardship and giving campaigns, in our technological capabilities, and in the love that we feel for and from the scores of wonderful people with whom we fellowship. We share our knowledge, our triumphs, our challenges and our sorrows with the comfort and confidence that we are all God's people.

In an era dominated by political and cultural divisions Newington UCC stands as a testament to the value of putting faith in God and things greater than ourselves. Throughout the congregation it's easy to see that we are a church with a collective desire to make a difference, whether big or small, in our community and beyond. Humble hearts and helping hands are in good supply. The youth add vibrancy and a maturity beyond their ages in their understanding of God's love, kindness and inclusiveness.

We are a blessed people! My hope in the coming year is that the church continues to be a vessel for us all to take the teachings of Jesus and put them into action for the betterment of our community and those less fortunate.

Sincerely,

Skip Collins - Moderator

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

**Report of the Church Clerk 2024-2025**

Membership as of April 25, 2023 \_\_\_\_\_ 677

Received:

By letter of transfer, confession, \_\_\_\_\_ 2  
 Reaffirmation of faith or Membership \_\_\_\_\_ 7  
 Reinstated \_\_\_\_\_  
 Confirmation \_\_\_\_\_ 3

Dismissed:

By Own Request /Transfer \_\_\_\_\_ 2  
 By Deacons \_\_\_\_\_ 0  
 By Death \_\_\_\_\_ 6

Gain/(Loss): \_\_\_\_\_ +4

Active Membership as of April 25, 2024 \_\_\_\_\_ **681**

Total Baptisms \_\_\_\_\_ 10

	<b>New Members (9)</b>	
Rosario-Morales Valery	Xenia Eileen Oyola	Ursula Hunt
Jason Fleming Miller	Melissa Ann Miller	Melanie Ann Stoddard
Angela Marie Crapser	Bryce Gardiner Crapser	Tobey Neil Aubert
	<b>Confirmation (3)</b>	
Livia Harris	Rita Marie Haeseler Andrade	Grace Miller

	<b>Baptism (10)</b>	
Margaret Eileen McCann	Natalie Grace Carducci	Kaylah Rose Eldridge
Leah Marie Crapser	Noah Bryce Crapser	Aubrey Rylee Parisi
Kinsley Addysen Parisi	Xirena Aurea Rosario-Oyola	Cole James Maljevic
Aubrey Lynn Schuberth		

	<b>Deaths (6)</b>	
Marcia Hublitz	Robert Hadley, Sr.	Norma J. Maine
Olga Glabau	Joyce H. Sanford	Dennis (Tex) A. Swan

<b>Removed at own request/transfer (2)</b>		
George Wentworth	Barbara Wentworth	

<b>Removed by deacon (0)</b>		

<b>Inactive (0)</b>

## Annual Report Spring 2024

Rev. Melanie Enfield

Senior Pastor

As I consider all that has happened this past year my heart is full of gratitude and I am reminded of the verse from I Thessalonians, "Give thanks in all circumstances." (5:18) My year began with a wonderful sabbatical last summer! I needed the rest, the break, and the inspiration. Thank you for this gift. It was greatly appreciated.

When I returned in September, we had hired a new office manager, Michelle Dixon, who has been a great addition to our staff. Michelle keeps us all organized with what is happening in the building. Michelle, Bria and Mary Jane make a great team and their strengths compliment one another. I am grateful for our office staff, for when things in the office run smoothly, it helps me do my job! Then after an 18-month search for an Associate Pastor, we switched gears, and we hired Tobey Aubert as our Program and Outreach Coordinator. Tobey has brought good energy and passion for this new position. I look forward to working with him as the year progresses. Peter Niedmann continues as our Director of Music, and Glenn Casey and Bob Pinard as our Sextons. It feels very good to have a full staff!! I am grateful.

This past year I enjoyed leading two different Bible studies, one in the fall on the Book of Philippians, and one during Lent on the Witness at the Cross. Jim Mulrooney helped lead both classes. Our sessions were full of good discussions and learnings. I also co-taught confirmation every Monday afternoon with Janet Schneider. We had lively conversations with 4 teenage girls about life, faith and the Church. I am grateful for all of them and also the confirmation mentors who walked alongside of us this year.

A big part of my week is planning worship and preparing my sermons. I try to have some variety. We have had a good number of visitors come on Sunday morning and it is always a challenge to meet and get to know them. (thank you, Deb Jeanfaivre, for your help in the area!) Advent/Christmas season, along with Lent/Easter are busy times, yet they are fun to plan and prepare for. In the fall we held a 4-week worship series on blessings. Each week we offered a blessing for a particular circumstance. (Blessing of our hands, for those in pain...) The week we offered a blessing for those who were addicted, or those who love someone who is addicted was a very moving worship service. We give gratitude to the people who were willing to be open and honest about their lives.

Our online presence continues to be strong, typically we have over 100 views on our YouTube channel each week. The number of subscribers to our YouTube channel has also

steadily increased this year. I have officiated at plenty of baptisms, one wedding and a number of funerals, these sacred times are always a highlight for me.

I have enjoyed spending time with our FUSE and SALT groups this year and am grateful to our youth advisors and our church schoolteachers! I am thankful for their faithfulness to God in sharing the good news of Jesus Christ. We all want to have a strong youth program, but only a few really jump in and do the work! Thank you! We had great discussions with the high school kids at my house for dinner and conversation. The sleepout is always a good time, and our caroling party at Christmas is meaningful. Family First Friday has also continued this year, and I have enjoyed getting to know some of the younger families of our church.

Besides my work in this particular congregation, I am also connected to the larger church through the Connecticut Central Association where I am the chairperson of the Committee on Ministry (COM.) The Association COM is where pastors hold their ordination status. So, we work with members in discernment (those who are working toward ordination) and those pastors transferring in or out of our association. We also work with Churches who are struggling in one way or another. At the present time, we are conducting a Situational Support Consultation with a local church that is experiencing conflict. I also attend monthly clergy gatherings for the association and also participate in the Newington Interfaith group. I am the facilitator for a clergy excellence group that meets once a month and encourages pastors to use their gifts for the greatest good.

During this past year we have also been in conversation with our friends at the Elmwood UCC Church. Elmwood has voted to become a legacy church, and some of their members have considered joining our congregation. In March, our council hosted a dinner with them and had a good time getting to know one another.

As I reflect on this past year, I am indeed grateful to this community of faith, for the love and support you share with me, and especially for your faithfulness to the Church of Jesus Christ. My prayer is that we will continue to listen, to act and to love.

To God be the glory!

Rev. Melanie Enfield

## **Program and Outreach Coordinator Annual Report 2023-2024**

In the past two and a half months that I have been in the position of Program and Outreach Coordinator I have had the privilege of getting to know our church family in a number of settings. Participating in worship services and visiting Sunday School classrooms has been a delight, especially being here for Holy Week. I have enjoyed hanging out in homes, church and bowling alleys as well as serving meals in Hartford with our high school and middle school youth groups. Being able to sit in and contribute in board meetings and at council have been insightful into the caring hearts and willing hands of our congregation. I am blessed to be able to be a part of Family First Fridays this spring. All of this along with a lot of fun in the fellowship hall and chatting in the Narthex has made me feel welcomed and loved.

While getting to know the congregation in those ways, there have been two distinct goals in my mind: assessment and focus. I have assessed the needs and attributes of our church and the needs of the Newington area through a variety of methods. Processing the Strategic Plan and the source documents combined with individual and group discussions have revealed a church that is healthy and ready for the next stage in more effective impact in the community. Combining the information from the Strategic Plan and interviews with members of our congregation initiated a pursuit of clear descriptions of purpose and passion to define our congregation for the future.

We explored three types of questions. The first question type is Our Why statement: What do we want to be known for believing? Why are we here in this place at this time? In listening to stories of recent and long-time members a common thread of the loving acceptance of God emerged which resulted in this answer, "We believe God loves unconditionally and inclusively." The second question type is Our Worthy Cause statement: What do we want to be known for doing? What is our dream? Through the Strategic Plan three categories of needs emerged involving relationships, wellness, and service in the Newington area, which resulted in the answers, "We dream of a connected, stable, and fulfilled community." The third question type involved Our Action statement: How can we declare our intentions in an easily recognizable manner, which resulted in the answer, "We choose to love on purpose to realize that dream."

In April, we brought the Focus Language to the Council for discussion and affirmation. The next step is to integrate the Focus Language into all areas of our church. That includes our planning process for marketing, themes for worship services, curriculum for programs, and decisions to create a streamlined calendar of events that provides effective impact leading to spiritual and numerical growth in our community.

The third step will be the invitation stage where we use distinct parts of these three statements to inspire each other within the church and attract folks outside our church to be part because our Why touches them and our Worthy Cause is something they want to make happen with their families, neighbors, and the community.

I am so glad to be a part of this church family and I am excited for the impact this will bring to this community and our own lives coming in the near future!



WHY DOES CHURCH OF CHRIST, CONGREGATIONAL IN NEWINGTON EXIST?

TO



WE BELIEVE GOD LOVES UNCONDITIONALLY AND INCLUSIVELY.  
WE DREAM OF A CONNECTED, STABLE, AND FULFILLED COMMUNITY.  
WE CHOOSE TO LOVE ON PURPOSE TO REALIZE THAT DREAM.

*"WE LOVE BECAUSE GOD FIRST LOVED US." 1 JOHN 4:19*

Regards,

Tobey Aubert

Program and Outreach Coordinator

# ANNUAL REPORT 2023 - 2024

## From the Organist & Director of Music

Our music ministry is vibrant and strong. The choirs (Youth, Adult, Handbell) presented a wide variety of wonderful music for worship. They also performed in 2 concerts to large, enthusiastic audiences. The choirs deserve our gratitude for their ongoing commitment.

We also welcomed 2 guest music groups into our worship this year:

Sacred Steel, a steel pan group from New Haven, provided special worship music on Christ the King Sunday in November. The Hot Cat Jazz Band brought us joyful sacred jazz in March.

A special benefit concert to support the people of war-torn Ukraine was presented by pianist Victor Markiw in October. A substantial donation was sent to Ukraine, from a generous audience and other supporters.

Concerts presented this year: Notes Over Storrs (3 *a cappella* groups from UConn); Christmas by Candlelight choral concert, Scott Lamlein, organist; Spring Pops!; Bells on the Green.

Janet Schneider led a popular multi-week music program—*CherubSing!* for young children.

The Youth Choir will combine with 4 other choirs to sing a beautiful Evensong service at Trinity College Chapel in June.

Thank you to everyone involved in our music ministry: Choirs; Kris Dunn and Mary Jane Pfordte, choir librarians; Board of Music; staff. We are blessed with many talented, generous, and positive folks who work hard to make our worship life a beautiful experience.

Gratefully,

Peter Niedmann

# Board of Trustees

## Annual Report

### 2023-2024

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**

Our 2023-2024 Annual Stewardship Campaign resulted in a total pledge amount of approximately \$411,000. This is slightly lower than our 2024 budget. We anticipate an increase in our basket/Non pledges, and our Shared expenses income remains strong and steady. As part of our 2023 budget, we transferred the full amount of \$64,825 from our endowments. We ended the 2023 fiscal year with an income of \$29,221 more than our 2023 budget. Our Expenses were down for the year, due mainly to not hiring an Associate Pastor and partial year without an Office manager.

The 2023 fiscal year ended with a Surplus of \$91,482. The trustees have placed approx. \$65,000 in our Fidelity funds and created a Trustees Discretionary account within our Power church accounting system. This will allow some flexibility as we navigate increased salaries, Mission needs and building maintenance. We pray that God will continue to bless and guide us and that we can continue as a strong and vital church, performing his work every day.

We carefully observed our endowment funds, which grew substantially due to a strong 2023 market performance. As always, we seek to balance return vs. risk in accordance with our 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. A special thanks to the Investment Subcommittee. This group of experienced church members always have the best interest of the church in mind.

The Trustees are consistently monitoring the costs of operations including utility rates, insurance, maintenance cost, investments, along with use of building and safe egress for everyone.

#### **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.
- We began the long-term project of removing the building away from the aging pneumatic controls as we converted four more upper floor rooms over to electronic thermostat control.
- Volunteers performed various painting projects throughout the building.
- We continue to repair aging floor tile and carpet as we plan and budget for replacement flooring in the Fellowship Hall and Narthex.

## **New Center Corp.**

We continue to work closely with the dedicated church members who manage the New Center Corporation, on our behalf. In 2023 M&T Bank opened the branch and we have seen an increase in traffic and patrons at both tenant spaces. We continue to maintain the property and monitor our lease agreements.

## **Personnel**

The church has hired a part-time office manager. Michelle Dixon was hired as a temp in early August, and we were very impressed with Michelle's experience with faith-based organizations. We hired Michelle as a church employee in early November 2023 and look forward to many years of employment. Mary-Jane DiPaola, our financial administrator, 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 easy and efficiency. The Sexton duties were performed by Bob Pinard and Glenn Casey. Both men perform their duties very well, keeping our building clean and safe for us all. We appreciate all their efforts. We have also hired Tobey Aubert as our Program and Outreach coordinator. This new position came from our difficulty filling the Associate pastor position. Tobey is a hybrid employee that falls under the direct supervision of the Pastor and falls under the category of Lay staff. We welcome Tobey and look forward to his energy and ideas to help us grow into the future. 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, various groups such as Al-Anon, NA, MADD, and other one-time events. This past spring we added Weight Watchers. WW uses the Fellowship Hall for five sessions weekly, Thursday through Sunday mornings. We have been fortunate to have them and look forward to a full year in 2024.

## **Strategic Plan**

As highlighted in our current Strategic plan, we are focusing on the second 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.

## **Board Members**

The current members of the 2023-2024 Board of Trustees are Paul Palaia, Dave Austin, Heather Beattie-DeWitt, Melissa Harris, Bob Batson, Mark Russell, Deb Sanborn, and Jim Mulrooney (Treasurer). I am extremely grateful for each Trustee for their efforts and dedication to this church. Our numbers maybe small but the talent level exhibited is immense.

Sincerely,  
Paul Palaia, Chair of Trustees.

## **Board of Deacons Annual Report – 2023–2024**

The ‘small but mighty’ Board of Deacons is a dedicated and talented group that has done some outstanding work this year. Who are we? Linda Crawford, Peg Garrison, Jamie Harris, Dale Hasbrouck, Chuck Hasbrouck, Sue Kalman, Peg Kelly, Dave Kilpatrick, Ann Marino, Karyl Sadowski, Theresa Swenor, and Mary Woods. This hard-working group has accomplished some wonderful things this year.

The church year began with the adoption of our Church Covenant in May 2023, revised by the Board of Deacons during the prior year. The Covenant will serve our church well for the future.

The Deacons Manual, previously an out-of-date and inaccurate reference document, is used for all our activities. Deacons carefully updated it to align with current practices and future needs.

Another outdated document is our church membership list. A subcommittee has been reviewing the rolls and communicating with members who have not been active to determine their ongoing membership level. This time-intensive and difficult work continues.

With COVID in the rearview mirror, our church returned to the traditional communion service. With parishioners having a growing comfort level with the traditional bread and juice elements, this year we began to use home baked bread for communion, prepared by volunteer church members, adding varied nice flavors to the sacraments each month.

As an open and affirming church, the Board of Deacons want to be sure that we talk the talk and walk the walk. The Deacons recommended changing the designations of three handicap-accessible bathrooms from gender specific to ‘All Gender Restroom’. They are located on the first level near the narthex and near Fellowship Hall.

Wanting to ensure that the public knows that our church is a welcoming place for everyone, Deacons resurrected the Pride Doors, displayed near the church sign at the corner of Cedar and Main. The doors were seen in June 2023 and will be again in June 2024.

Continuing efforts to provide spiritually meaningful holiday seasons, Deacons designed and installed an Advent alter scape and displayed seasonal flowers at the communion table for Christmas and Easter. As has been the practice for many years, the flowers were distributed to designated church members under the leadership of the board. Deacons took the lead again this year for our church’s role in the town Parks & Recreation Department’s *Night of Lights*, a highly successful community activity.

With all the stress we encounter in our lives, Deacons installed the Prayer Door in the narthex for the months of March and April. People were encouraged to write concerns on prayer cards and place them on the door, leaving their worries to God before entering the sanctuary.

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

With great appreciation to the Nominating Committee, the Deacon Board looks forward to welcoming four new deacons for the coming year.

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

Blessings,  
Chuck Hasbrouck  
Chairperson

## **Board of Christian Education**

### **Annual Report**

**2023-2024**

The Board of Christian Education had a very busy year this year. In June we were thrilled to once again be able to host a Children's Day, an outdoor spectacular event on the front lawn with a magician who kept us laughing and entertained with balloon animals. We also had single serve ice cream available from a local truck vendor. Additionally, we handed out \$500 Church scholarship awards to 5 seniors and an additional \$550 Burgess Scholarship award.

Our summer was busy planning for church school, with a theme of "Jesus is my Superhero". The Board continued to meet on Zoom for a majority of our meetings, but our September meeting was in-person. Due to an increase in attendance we reopened our pre-K/K room this year. Julie Wacht and Concetta Conlogue rotated weeks along with a volunteer assistant. Pre-K-3 solicited volunteers from our CE Board and the Church to teach on a monthly rotation. Don and Vaille LaChance continued teaching 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grades, and Gary Lee and Jay Krusell were helped by Lara Bohlke, Dana Havens and Kara Russell with 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grades.

In October we held an open house to welcome parents to meet the teachers and learn more about Church school. We also conducted our annual fire drill for the church school. In December we hosted our annual Christmas Family Party, with a special visit from Santa who read a story to the children. We held the annual Christmas Eve family service - a great time was had by all.

In January we started an attendance award program to keep up our attendance numbers during the winter. Pre-K through 3 are able to pick from a prize box after 5 Sundays. Grade 4-7 will receive a \$5 dollar gift card to Dunkin or Carvel after 10 Sundays. This was our strategic goal for 2023-2024.

In February we held our annual food Souper Bowl drive to benefit the Newington Food Bank – again a drive through drop off event on Saturday morning of Super Bowl weekend along with a drop off wagon in the Narthex on Sunday morning. The food bank was very excited to see the donations.

We look forward to confirmation this year in April and another successful Children's Day in June.

As always, we are grateful to the volunteers that help our youth with their faith formation, and to the amazing leadership of Rev. Melanie Enfield. Her patience, energy and guidance are invaluable. In addition, we look forward to partnering with Tobey Aubert to improve our faith formation programs for the children.

Respectfully submitted,

Dagny Bronson, Chair

Members: Nicole Haeseler, Amy Damato, Angela Duran, Michelle Jackson, Julie Wacht, Angela Tedesco, Kathryn Roman

BOARD of MISSIONS/SOCIAL ACTION Annual Report 2023-24.

### **Strategic Plan 2022-2025**

Pursuant to Senior Pastor Melanie Enfield's request and under direction and guidance of Melissa Harris, Missions/Social Action adopted a Strategic Plan for 2022-2025. Mission's actions items for the first year of plan is to continue to grow in Faith, spread the word of God and provide opportunities for others to serve. The goal is to create Value-Added Fellowship after Service once a month. Missions working with outreach groups such as the Friendship Center, Hands on Hartford, Newington Human Services, Agape House and the ALZ organization.

**Sunday, January 22** – Matt Norton, Agape House

**Sunday, February 26** – Amanda DeLaura, Interval House

**Sunday, March 26** – Melanie Alarez, Friendship Center

**Sunday April 16** – Kris Sortwell, Bristol ALZ

**Sunday, May 21** – Carole LeBrecque, Newington Human Services

**Sunday, September** – Jessica Simms, Family Promise

**Gather 55:** **Gather55** is a unique restaurant that supports the mission work of Hands On Hartford. Each month a different Guest Chef offers a special menu for our guests. The Mission board met there twice to enjoy dinner together. We encourage you to give it a try, it is delicious.

**November 2023 Giving:** Pluck-A-Turkey campaign fulfilled by our wonderful congregation filled 2 Thanksgiving baskets with all the fixings and a gift card for perishable items for the Friendship Center and several gift cards for perishable items to Newington Social Service.

**December 2023 Giving:** The Christmas Giving Tree again displayed the generosity of our congregation with Interval House, Family Promise, Newington Human Promises with 64 gifts and Agape House receiving 60 cans of cream style soup. One family from the Friendship Center had their wish list filled.

### **The Market Square Thrift Shop:**

The shop continues to support the monthly Missions Meals Fund of \$150.00 This helps support our monthly meal making for Center Church in Hartford with the high school youth.

**Global Ministries Child Support Sponsorship:** The congregation continues to support the monthly school and summer programs for our three children: Dennis, Inya, and Guna. The mission board does write the students and their return letters are posted for the congregation to read.

**Citizens of the World:** We are a four-church coalition registered with IRIS (Integrated Refugee & Immigrant Services). We as a UCC congregation joined with Trinity Episcopal and First Church both in Wethersfield and St Andrew's Episcopal Church in Rocky Hill to sponsor an Afghan family for settlement. Omar the father is working full time, both boys are currently in school at Wethersfield High and the family is providing for all it's needs at this time.

**Board of Missions-Social Action 2023 Benevolences**

Appalachian Services Project - \$1,000

St Vincent's Home Haiti - \$1,500

Newington Food Pantry - \$500

Interval House - \$500

Family Promise - \$500

Silver Lake (GE) transfer - \$400

UCC-Central Dem. Republic Congo - \$1,000

Friendship Center/Day Center - \$500

Andover Newton @ Yale - \$800

Agape House - \$100

Total Discretionary: \$6,800

Connecticut UCC Conference (Missionary Soc. Of CT) - \$34,000

Total Benevolence - \$40,800

With gratitude to the generosity of the entire Congregation and to the Market Square Thrift Shop, the Board of Trustees and to our leadership of Senior Pastor Melanie Enfield.

Respectfully Submitted

Judy Niedzielski



## BOARD OF SACRED MUSIC

### Annual Report 2023-2024

The music program continues to grow under the direction of Peter Niedmann featuring wonderful music each Sunday, diverse concert series and musical presentations. The three choirs, senior choir, youth choir and the cherubs continue to grow in numbers including the quality of hymns with their voices.

The music for the Church's summer services included a variety of presentations from soloists, singing groups to musicians to organists.

- Our 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Carillon Concert that was to be held on July 2, 2023 but was cancelled due to rain.
- In July we hosted an organ concert for young and talented organist who has Connecticut roots, Ted Babbitt.
- Our choir sang the National Anthem at the Yard Goats baseball game on a very warm and sunny afternoon in July in Hartford.
- In October we were able to hear Victor Markiw once again, the Ukrainian-American concert pianist play for us. The monies collected from this concert are sent to the Ukrainian for prosthetic limbs.
- The beat of steel drums filled the Church when Sacred Steel Band played for our 10 am service November. This talented group is from New Haven CT and their music includes some of the following types of music: island folk music, reggae, and sacred jazz.
- The A Capella Group, *Notes Over Storrs*, entertained the audience in November. Once again, Peter Niedmann's daughter, Veronica, is a member a member of this group. The Church members, UCONN students and the general public all enjoyed this concert.
- Everyone's favorite is the Christmas Candlelight Concert which was held on the second Sunday in December. The music and songs filled the Church's Sanctuary and our hearts were once again filled with the wonderful season we were celebrating. Music also hosted a reception after the concert and this included our famous sherbert punch, cold cut platters, vegetables, desserts, and snacks.
- Scott Lamlein, an organist, who features both spiritual and emotional music.
- In March, the all-time favorite, the Hot Cat Jazz Band once again made their annual visit to play during worship. This band puts a jazzy spin on favorite hymns and songs, and

this is very much enjoyed by all those attending the Church service. It is a wonderful and energetic music experience that we look forward to annually.

- The Spring Pops Concert was held in May and what a wonderful concert it was. Everyone loved the music, and the songs were known to so many. Music that was featured was from Alladin and also included special tributes to great and popular songwriters and/or singers Burt Bacharach, Stephen Sondheim and Harry Belafonte who had passed away earlier in 2023. May their music live on.

The Music Board arranges that we have ushers for each concert so that all guests can have a place to sit. For the Christmas and Spring Concerts, the Music Board also hosts the after-concert receptions. Without the help and assistance of the Hospitality team and Church members, this makes these receptions a huge success.

Thank You to Peter Niedmann for being the Music Director and Church Organist and to Janet Schneider for her work with the Cherubs and to Tom Weeden and Mick Duffek for putting together the live stream and videos for these concerts. Thank you to all the choirs – senior, youth and cherub, to the bells and soloists that took part in the Church services and concerts this past year. We appreciate all that you have been done and for our congregation. We appreciate your support.

We look forward to an exciting and event filled 2024 - 2025 year with the music that you will very much enjoy.

Respectfully submitted,

*Beverly Adamick*

Beverly Adamick, Chairperson

Board Members:

Peter Niedmann – Music Director, Beverly Adamick, Christine Boghosian, Joyce Brown, Mick Duffek, Janet Machol, Dan Weaver

## **GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2024**

Our year started with our annual ice cream give away Wednesday, held at Mill Pond during extravaganza week. The 200 cups of ice cream were given away in only ½ an hour. Many volunteers from the church, the backbone of any of our events, manned a toppings bar that transformed the cups of ice cream into delicious sundaes. A second community event, the night of lights , provided us with another opportunity to advertise our church to non church members. We purchased candy canes, attached a church message to them, and arranged to have them distributed to people in the crowd.

We hosted 3 events that focused mainly on food, and as you can expect they were well attended. To help celebrate World Communion, we asked church goers to bring in a finger food that represented a country that was special to them. Attendees were also encouraged to place a pin on a world map to illustrate all the places where they have traveled too.. Two yummy events enjoyed by all ages were Donut and Muffin Sunday's, our church rose to the occasion and consumed 120 donuts and 80 muffins.

In February we hosted our annual Bingo night. Over 50 people attended this family event and competed for fun prizes. This was followed up a few weeks later by our annual Trivia night in March. Several teams competed to see who knew the most trivia. A new activity this past winter was a night of Axe throwing. Several people enjoyed the competition, and thankfully no one was hurt. To cap off our Winter we raised over \$1,000 dollars by sponsoring a night out to eat at Puerto Vallarta.

We close out our year by hosting the "Rookie Challenge" This event is geared towards new and potential members. They face off in a number of challenges, all in the name of team building and cooperation.

Thanks to Tonya Africano, Concetta Cologne, Pete Donahue, Elizabeth Kostreva, Kara Russell and Jerome Manning. A special shout out to our Emcee, Jim Mulroony.

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



CHURCH OF CHRIST  
CONGREGATIONAL  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
NEWINGTON, CT

## **Because of you, our church changes lives!**

This was the theme for our 2024 Stewardship campaign. During the weeks leading up to pledge Sunday we were fortunate to hear from members of our congregation talk about what this meant to them. Rachel Erickson talked about her experiences on ASP. Jim and Deb Ingle showed us the impact your gifts have made through our Board of Missions. Jamie Harris discussed the impact of our church on his family and others. Finally, Jim Mulrooney asked each of us to look inward to see how the church has impacted our own lives.

We are currently exploring ways to look at stewardship as a year-round discussion rather than only in the fall. We will be exploring various ways to do this through on-line and in-person communications.

Through your support we will continue to change lives both our own and within our community!

The 2024 Stewardship consisted of Lee Grey, Jim Mulrooney, Judy, Warren, Dave Austin, and Ed Liedke

Blessing,

Ed Liedke, Chairperson Stewardship

## **Thrift Shop Annual Report 2023-2024**

We are still here at 230 Market Square (rear), and thanks to our amazing volunteers, shoppers/customers, and those that donate items, we seem to be doing better than ever! For those not aware, we are a thrift shop, sponsored by our church, run by church-member volunteers, and dedicated to serving the needs of our church and community near and far.

Our proceeds enable us to “gift” the church and its boards with funds to help with their events, needs “wish list” items and such.

We continue to donate yearly to the Music Board for Peter’s concert series, the Missions Board for “Hands on Hartford,” “Got Lunch,” and Friendship Center, and to ASP for their youth ministry trip. In addition, we always “invite” the ASP volunteers to come to the shop to pick out work-clothes (jeans, shirts, shoes, etc.) at no charge (FREE) to wear on their trip. We also donate yearly to the church golf tournament.

In support of our community, we donate yearly to our local Newington Volunteer Fire Department Co 1, and our Newington EMS. In the past we have donated prom gowns in the spring for young ladies in need to local drop-offs, but this year, thanks to our church collection drive, we were able to bring the gowns and some glamorous shoes right here! Also, to extend our outreach to the community, clothing and household items that don’t sell are always donated to other charity venues, such as The Salvation Army. We even donate household items to the June ASP tag sale!

Over time, we have developed a close rapport with many of our regular customers, and that number continues to grow. More and more people are coming into the shop saying they no longer want to pay the high prices in the stores. They comment on how nice the thrift shop is and especially how friendly and helpful our volunteers are. Just to note, if a customer comes in and is interested in an item(s), but came without cash or a check, we will hold that item(s) for them (usually for one week).

Everything we sell is donated, including men’s, women’s, baby, and children’s clothing and shoes, purses, dishes, vases, glassware, paperback books, puzzles, costume jewelry, knick-knacks, linens, pots and pans, toys, and much more. As of

last year, due to state regulations, we can no longer sell small counter appliances (toasters, irons, mixers, toaster ovens, etc.). We continually run 50% off sales that change every 2 weeks on various items.

Our volunteers sign up for shifts of two hours each, either 11:00 until 1:00 or 1:00 until 3:00. We have some volunteers that act as “fill-ins” to cover for those that have signed up but can’t come that day.

Reminder:

Location: 230 Market Square (rear)

Hours: 11:00 AM – 3:00 PM

When: Every Wednesday through Saturday

We always need customers, donations, and of course volunteers. This report can’t end without extending enormous, heartfelt gratitude and appreciation to our volunteers for everything that they do. We couldn’t keep going without you.

Respectfully submitted,

Vaille LaChance

The Board of the Market Square Thrift Shop:

Sherry Affleck

Vaille LaChance

Dot Jacobs

Peg Schwanda

Deb Jeanfaivre

Linda Stewart

## ASP 2023 Annual Report

Love Strong Luke 10:27 Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength and with all your mind and love your neighbor as yourself.

ASP 2023 begins with monthly meetings to build our relationships with each other and to learn about ASP's three S - safety, sensitivity and stewardship. This year we added an ASP Game Night in January and enjoyed a fun night together. Fundraisers like the car wash and tag sale are hard work with financial benefits that also give our volunteers an opportunity to share with shoppers what ASP is and why they want to participate. As we attract many student volunteers from Newington, these events facilitate team work and highlight their strengths that we can build upon during our trip.

This year we had 43 volunteers: 16 veteran adults and 27 youth with 10 who were new and 4 college age. This translates into 7 work crews with one floater, 8 rental vans. That means 7 families will receive work to make their homes warmer, safer and drier.

Our mission trip took us to Charleston, West Virginia where we stayed at Bream Memorial Presbyterian Church near the Kanawha River. This is a downtown church which also functions as a daycare and provides showers and laundry for the homeless. Being downtown brought some challenges: vehicle safety overnight, building codes, inspections, indoor storage of materials and fireworks viewing from our parking lot. The men's sleeping quarters in the gym needed to be expanded to accept the sea of cots and the women added another room conditioner. We shared our week with another church from Pittsburg, PA They brought Lou who delivered prayers and freshly made snow cones from his trailer to our work site almost every day.

On our first night in Charleston, ASP CEO Walter Crouch visited our center and presented us with a 30 year participation plaque. This was a great honor for our church to receive and from Walter whom we have served with these past 30 years. He is retiring this April.

Our work the week of June 23-27 included deck removal and replacement, building ramps, room additions, J channel for siding, roofing and ceiling repair. Many teams dug many deep holes by hand. We were blessed with warm, sun filled days. As relationships with our families grew so did the invitation to a basketball game and attendance to the weekly picnic. Several went to visit with families from last year. Our circle of Love Strong continues.

So many lives changed for the past 30 years, none could be accomplished without the love and support of this church family. You support us financially and spiritually, you attend our fundraisers and give us much needed emotional support, you follow us on facebook and your comments uplift us. We are one body with many ways to bring God's love to our neighbors in Appalachia.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Judy Niedzielski





## **Honor and Memorial Gifts Committee**

### **Annual Report for 2023-2024**

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, 2023 and April 30, 2024 include –

1. No purchases made during this time

#### **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)
7. Hearing Assist System Upgrade

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Brown  
Judy Warren

## **Memorial Garden Committee Annual Report for 2023-2024**

**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, averaging \$2,500 a year, to keep it looking beautiful. We also have a wonderful group of volunteers led by Judy Gordon and Deb Caserta that plant and maintain the flowers and weed the gardens during the year. We appreciate their many hours of work which help to keep our expenses down.

Over the past 23 years, we have interred the ashes of 49 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.

The Newington Memorial Funeral Home donated a new bench for the Memorial Garden and we are very grateful for the generous donation. The benches provide a place for people to come, sit, and reflect.

We also received a generous donation from the family of Theresa DeFrancis for the Memorial Garden. Some of these funds were used to add some new perennials and bushes that will flower in the Fall.

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,

Linda Carubia  
Pat Lavery  
Judy Warren

## RaiseRight Committee

### 2023 Annual Report

In 2023 we topped \$8,000 in earnings, which was a new record for us. We have fully transitioned our name to RaiseRight and continue to encourage people to use the website for year-round ordering.

We continue to benefit from Melanie's support and I'm grateful that our committee is still intact with Kris Dunn, Diana Krusell, Karen Serio, and Deb Sanborn. This team has been in place for several years and works very well together to ensure that the table is open every Sunday.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Donna Cagen  
4/14/2024



# Church of Christ Congregational UCC

## STRATEGIC PLAN 2023 – 2025

### Executive Summary

#### INTRODUCTION



Church of Christ Congregational in Newington is celebrating 300 years of serving as the hands and heart of God in our community. This tremendous milestone is an opportunity not only to honor and celebrate our past, but also to share our vision and strategic priorities for the future. As such, the Church has developed a strategic plan that is anchored in our aim to “grow in faith and service,” and that will help guide our efforts over the next few years.

This plan has been shaped by the many congregants, committee members, and community leaders that shared their perspectives with us. We thank all those who thoughtfully contributed to our learning, discussions, and direction. Through you, we see that God truly is still speaking, and we look forward to answering God’s call together.

#### OUR VISION AND VALUES

##### VISION

**United in Spirit and inspired by God’s grace, we grow in faith and service.**

We do this by:

- Gathering together as the body of Christ to worship God
- Deepening our faith through God’s word and prayer
- Welcoming all as an open and affirming congregation
- Fostering connections to strengthen a diverse community
- Being the hands and heart of God to serve the world near and far.

## VALUES

### **Our Church's culture and efforts are guided by the following values:**

- **Openness** – Our doors are open to all, as we are all children of God. No matter who you are or where you are in your faith journey, you are welcome here. We fully and unconditionally embrace people of all orientations, backgrounds, and abilities. We encourage inquiry, wrestle with doubt, acknowledge the hurt of the disaffected, and offer acceptance, affirmation, and belonging.
- **Active Faith** – Faith is a spiritual muscle that grows stronger with exploration and practice. God is calling us to deepen and live our faith through reflection, our attitudes, and actions. In addition to worship, we strive to follow and share the loving and just example of Christ in the way we meet one another, live, serve, and grow. But we are human, so we also meet ourselves with grace and keep trying.
- **Service** – God is still speaking and there is much work to be done. Our Church offers abundant opportunities for youth and adults alike to love, serve, and give generously. When we serve others, we connect with what matters, become more aware, grow in gratitude and character, act as the hands and heart of God, and contribute to a more just society. Everyone has something to offer in service to their neighbor and to God.
- **Community** – Here, you will be met with genuine kindness, care, and acceptance. Here, you can build meaningful relationships and find community. We get to know each other, support each other, and celebrate each other. We are neighbors. We are friends. We are a diverse family, formed by faith and service.

### **OUR STRATEGIC PLAN TO GROW IN FAITH AND SERVICE**

**Affirmations:** We are a dynamic Church community that offers congregants of all ages numerous and meaningful ways to grow in faith and service. Our members are generous with their time, talent, and treasure. We are financially healthy and benefit from strong ministerial and lay leadership. Accordingly, this strategic plan has been developed from a place of gratitude and abundance.

The goals and strategies in this plan seek to build upon the great work we are already doing—They focus on areas of opportunity and growth, as opposed to areas to sustain. Therefore, under each goal, there is also an affirmation or acknowledgement of the many strengths that serve as our foundation.



**GOAL 1: GROW IN OUR FAITH AND SPREAD THE WORD OF GOD THROUGH OUR DIGITAL MINISTRY, SPIRITUAL FORMATION OPPORTUNITIES, AND INTENTIONAL WELCOME OF ALL.**

**Affirmations:** Our Church currently helps us grow in faith through compelling Sunday services, enhanced by beautiful music and online access; spiritual formation classes and Bible studies that also promote a sense of belonging; and a culture that values love, acceptance, and the active practice of faith. The following strategies build upon these strengths.

**Strategies:**

- Increase access to the word of God and connection to our Church by growing our digital ministry.
- Inspire more people to explore their faith through thought-provoking, creative, and tailored programs.
- Be more explicit in our intentional welcome of people of all abilities, orientations, races, and cultural backgrounds.
- Ensure all visitors and new members receive deliberate welcome and cultivation.



**GOAL 2: EXPAND THE MEANS, METHODS, AND RELATIONSHIPS THAT WILL ENABLE US TO CONTINUE GROWING IN SERVICE AND ADVANCING JUSTICE.**

**Affirmations:** Service is considered a vital and empowering extension of our faith, and our congregants serve generously. Our broad range of service opportunities for youth and adults is noteworthy and appreciated, and our ministries align with critical community needs like housing, food, and economic insecurity. Community leaders value working with our Church, and we are seen as a reliable and responsive partner. The following strategies build upon these strengths.

**Strategies:**

- Increase the visibility of and participation in one-time and ongoing service opportunities.
- Provide education and forums to address racial, social, and environmental injustices.
- Develop an intentional community outreach strategy aimed at fostering relationships and expanding our collaborations to address community needs.
- Strengthen our presence in the community by increasing our participation in Newington groups and events.
- Invite the community into our Church more regularly and create a safe space for building relationships.

### **GOAL 3: ORGANIZE MORE EFFECTIVELY, ACCESSIBLY, AND INCLUSIVELY TO ADVANCE OUR WORK.**

**Affirmations:** The dedicated volunteers engaged in our Church's many boards and committees drive our mission and ministries. They are responsible for the spiritual life of the Church; grace us with music, nurture our youth, reach out to the community, invite people in, steward our resources, and so much more. We honor their immense contributions to every aspect of our Church and invite more members to answer this vital call to become a lay leader. The following strategies build upon our strengths and encourage changes that will promote more participation.

#### **Strategies:**

- Create onramps for committee service and more intentionally develop our lay leaders.
- Examine streamlined and enabling committee structures.
- Engage and empower our youth as the next generation of Church leaders.

### **GOAL 4: MAXIMIZE OUR AVAILABLE RESOURCES AND INVEST WISELY IN OUR INFRASTRUCTURE.**

**Affirmations:** Our lay leaders have dependably safeguarded and nurtured our Church's resources for 300 years. In a time where so many churches are struggling, our finances, building, and membership are in admirable shape because of their diligence and the faithful generosity of our congregants. From New Center Corporation to the use of our preschool space and Fellowship Hall, we also have a history of thoughtfully and creatively using our property to help sustain our Church and contribute good to the community. Now, as we consider the Church's value, relevance, and role in a rapidly changing society, we stand ready to ask new questions, explore new ideas, and continue boldly answering God's call. The following strategies build upon our legacy and call upon us to embrace an abundance mindset.

#### **Strategies:**

- Use our building needs and use audit to plan for capital improvements and explore our untapped potential.
- Promote abundance through the prayerful solicitation and use of financial resources.
- Invest wisely in our staffing and infrastructure.

### **IMPLEMENTATION AND PROGRESS MONITORING**

The strategic planning task force and Senior Minister will identify year-one priorities and share them with the Church Council. An implementation spreadsheet also will be created to track assignments and support progress monitoring. At that point, the Church Council will assume oversight of the plan and serve as a resource for committees.

Each committee will prayerfully review the plan, identify opportunities to contribute to the work, and submit a year-one workplan to the Council that outlines their ambitions. Progress by each Committee will be included in their regular updates to the Council. Sharing what worked, what didn't, and what was learned will be important as we all seek to continue experimenting, learning, and growing together.

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# *Sharing Our Caring*



Ministry & Mission Presented

At the SNEUCC Central CT Association

Fall 2023 Gathering

**Hosted by Plantsville Congregational Church**



*Association churches are living their faith through programs offering comfort, hope and basic necessities to those in need. The desire to share God's love and care for one another is part of each ministry, new or old.*

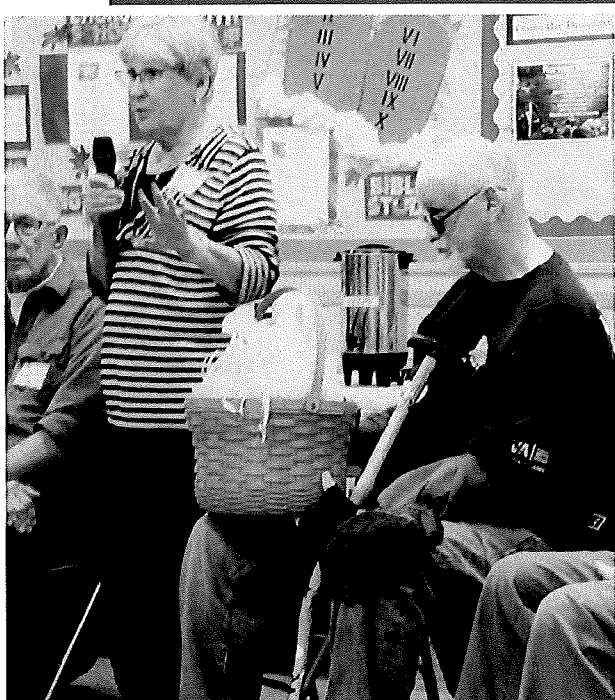






**Helping the Homeless Among Us** Care Packages gives duffel bags filled with blankets, gloves, personal and hygiene items, bottled water and snacks to those without shelter. First Church of Meriden stuffs the bags and delivers them to Meriden Social Services for distribution.  
*Presenters: Sharon Burch and Meg Hamilton*

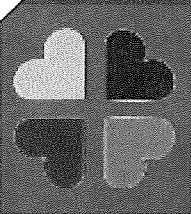
**The Prayer Shawl Ministry** at South Church, New Britain, has been active for over 20 years, offering comfort and caring to people in times of sorrow and celebration. Meeting monthly, they have knitted, blessed, and given more than 1,500 shawls to share God's healing touch.  
*Presenters: Rev. Jane Rowe and Tammy Braeuer*



**Knitted Knockers** makes handmade, comfortable prosthetics for breast cancer survivors. The Plantsville Congregational Church has been a registered supplier of Knitted Knockers for more than five years and supports three medical clinics in CT with 18 to 20 at a time.  
*Presenter: Lois Mattson*



**Grateful Threads** creates quilts for babies, children and adults in need, as well as prayer shawls and lap robes for those seeking comfort. A ministry of FCC Southington for more than 20 years, it has donated items to hospitals, camps, care facilities and immigrant relocation services. *Presenters: Linda Lawrence and Dani Adams*



**Caring Hearts** are planted in the yards of those homebound or with health or other personal concerns. The Kensington Congregation Church started surprising members with KCC Loves You wooden hearts, as others have been flocked by pink flamingos, during the pandemic. *Presenters: Beth and Steve Nyerick*

**Got Lunch Newington** provides weekly lunch groceries during the summer to Newington children who receive free or reduced lunches. Church of Christ, Congregational, co-sponsors the program with the Newington Department of Human Services and serves as the staging area. *Presenter: Ann Marino*



**WISE** (Welcoming, Inclusive, Supportive and Engaged) welcomes diverse people, including those affected by mental health challenges. First Congregational Church of Southington was certified WISE in June 2023 and holds open monthly meetings to grow its WISE ministry. *Presenters: Steve Palmieri and Dan Gabree*



**Association churches** joined together to weave no-sew, fleece-tie blankets that were donated to Covenant to Care for Children.

*Presenter: Gwen McCann,  
Director of Christian Faith Formation,  
Kensington Congregational Church*



## **Churches of the SNEUCC**

### **Central CT Association:**

#### **Berlin Congregational Church**

878 Worthington Ridge  
Berlin, CT 06037  
[berlincongregationalchurch.org](http://berlincongregationalchurch.org)

#### **Center Congregational Church**

474 Broad St.  
Meriden, CT 06450  
[centerchurchmeriden.org](http://centerchurchmeriden.org)

#### **Church of Christ, Congregational**

1075 Main St.  
Newington, CT 06111  
[newingtonucc.org](http://newingtonucc.org)

#### **First Church of Christ**

830 Corbin Ave.  
New Britain, CT 06052  
[firstnewbritain.org](http://firstnewbritain.org)

#### **First Congregational Church**

62 Colony St.  
Meriden, CT 06451  
[fccmeriden.org](http://fccmeriden.org)

#### **First Congregational Church**

37 Main St.  
Southington, CT 06489  
[fccsouthington.org](http://fccsouthington.org)

#### **Kensington Congregational Church**

312 Percival Ave.  
Kensington, CT 06037  
[kensingtoncong.org](http://kensingtoncong.org)

#### **Plantsville Congregational Church**

109 Church St.  
Plantsville, CT 06479  
[plantsvilleucc.org](http://plantsvilleucc.org)

#### **South Church**

90 Main St.  
New Britain, CT 06051  
[southchurch.org](http://southchurch.org)

#### **Wolcott Congregational Church**

105 Center St.

The Report of the Board of Nominations  
**April 22, 2024**

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, 2024, to May 31, 2025. 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 2024**

**Moderator:** Skip Collins  
**Treasurer:** Jim Mulrooney  
**Assistant Treasurer:** Peg Schwanda  
**Church Clerk:** Beverly Adamick  
**Auditor:** Peter Brzezicki  
**Assistant Auditor:** Ray Girard  
**Historian:** Jon Tinkham &  
Susan Hutcheon

**Board of Deacons (15)**

**Serving to June 2027**

Theresa Swenor  
Jamie Harris  
Jennifer Laurito  
Renee Lavoie  
Nancy Crawford  
Janet Schneider

**Serving to June 2026**

**Serving to June 2025**

Mary Woods  
David Kilpatrick  
Chuck Hasbrouck  
Dale Hasbrouck  
Margaret (Peg) Kelly  
Karyl Sadowski  
Linda Crawford  
Ann Marino

**Board of Trustees (12)**

**Serving to June 2027**

Paul Palaia  
Dave Austin

**Serving to June 2026**

Robert Batson  
Mark Russell

**Serving to June 2025**

Jennifer Andrade

## **Board of Christian Education (12 plus 2 youth)**

### **Serving to June 2027**

Amy Damato

### **Serving to June 2026**

Angela Tedesco  
Katie Roman  
Angela Duran  
Julie Wacht

### **Serving to June 2025**

Nicole Haeseler  
Michelle Jackson  
Yelena Kiriyan

## **Board of Sacred Music (6 plus 1 youth)**

### **Serving to June 2027**

### **Serving to June 2026**

Chris Boghosian  
Janet Machol

### **Serving to June 2025**

Dan Weaver  
Mickey Duffek  
Joyce Brown  
JoAnn Scott

## **Board of Missions and Social Action (15)**

### **Serving to June 2027**

### **Serving to June 2026**

Bill Ford

### **Serving to June 2025**

Judy Niedzielki  
Tammy Samarotto  
Michelle Lawson  
Valery Rosario  
Ursula Hunt  
Melissa Miller  
Brian Alemany  
Liz Palaia

## **Growth & Development**

### **Serving to June 2027**

Pete Donahue

### **Serving to June 2026**

Concetta Conlogue  
Elizabeth Kostreva  
Jerome Manning  
Tonya Affricano

### **Serving to June 2025**

Kara Russell  
Jon Tinkham  
Pam Bogdanovich

## **Board of Christian Stewardship**

### **Serving to June 2027**

Jim Mulrooney

### **Serving to June 2026**

Dave Austin

### **Serving to June 2025**

Ed Liedke  
Ann Marino  
Judy Warren  
Bev Adamick

## **Board of Collectors (6)**

### **Serving to June 2027**

### **Serving to June 2026**

### **Serving to June 2025**

Deb Jeanfaiivre  
Barbara Mead  
Pam Bogdanovich  
Mary Woods  
Liz Palaia  
Judy Warren

## **Board of Ushers (6)**

### **Serving to June 2027**

George & Gail Verheyen  
Joyce Thorner

### **Serving to June 2026**

### **Serving to June 2025**

Michelle Roy  
Jeff Smith  
Paul & Susan Hutcheon  
Peter Tinkham

## **Board of Hospitality (8)**

### **Serving to June 2027**

### **Serving to June 2026**

### **Serving to June 2025**

Nancy Crawford  
Deb Sanborn  
Susan Hutcheon

Diana Krusell

**Memorial Gifts Committee (3)**

**Serving to June 2027**

**Serving to June 2026**

**Serving to June 2025**

Judy Warren

**Memorial Garden Committee (6)**

**Serving to June 2027**

**Serving to June 2026**

**Serving to June 2025**

Patricia Lavery

Judy Warren  
Linda Carubia

**Board of Planned Giving**

**Serving to June 2027**

**Serving to June 2026**

**Serving to June 2025**

Ann Marino  
Tom Dunn (liaison/consult)

**Board of Nominations**

**Serving to June 2027**

**Serving to June 2026**

**Serving to June 2025**

Steve Woods

Pete Donahue

Jon Tinkham

**Liaison to Avery Heights**

Paul Stewart

**Board of Market Square Thrift Shop (6)**

Linda Stewart  
Peg Schwanda

Dot Jacobs  
Vaille LaChance

Deb Jeanfaivre  
Sherry Affleck

**Delegates (1-year terms)**

**Central Connecticut Association, United Church of Christ**

Deb Jeanfaivre  
Janet Schneider  
Jim Mulrooney

Jon Tinkham  
Ann Marino  
Janet Stoddard

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

Janet Stoddard  
Jim Mulrooney

Ann Marino

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

William Hall

Stephen Woods

Respectfully Submitted,

Jon Tinkham  
Steve Woods  
Ed Liedke  
Pete Donahue

Board of Nominations