Church of Christ, Congregational
FALL 2025

Belfry Echoes

CHURCH SCHOOL 2025-2026

Power

Love is our Mission

Sound Mind



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WE ARE AN OPEN AND AFFIRMING CONGREGATION

Like us on Facebook

Worship Service |
Every Sunday at 10:00 am

Communion Service |
1st Sunday each month

1075 Main Street
Newington, CT 06111

www.newingtonucc.org

churchofchrist@newingtonucc.org

860.666.4689

860.666.5871

Rally Day 2025 Love Is Our Mission

For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power, of love and of a sound mind.

II Timothy 1:7

SEPTEMBER 7,2025 | 10:00AM

Love is our Mission builds upon the theme of last year's Church School, "Love is our Superpower." This year, we will be putting our faith into action in tangible ways within the church and within the greater community. Using our theme verse as a guide we have created a curriculum that has two distinct "**Keys**."

Key #1 is a Sound Mind: The lesson portion of our church school classes. Using Scripture, story, prayer, and breath work, we teach our students how to use our minds to understand God's love, Christ's example of service in Scripture, and how we can take ourselves to better live and love others.

Key #2 is Power: The action portion of our time is where we use our bodies and creativity to put our love into action. Usually, the class time includes a craft time that will reinforce the lesson. With our Love is our Mission theme, the craft time will be focused on making and doing things that will bring love to others. It may be things like creating a craft or friendly note to take to a friend, assembling items for Care Cart, or taking time to care for one another in the classroom. Each class will be fun and hands on as we fulfill our mission to love! Our theme also coincides with Rev. Melanie's sermon series for the fall. Parents and children will be experiencing similar themes and content crafted to their experience and age level.

Our mission begins with our first church school class on Rally Day, September 7th at 10am in the Worship service. This theme will continue each Sunday morning through the fall until the holidays begin.

U. gathering

We are meeting on a new day and at a new time! Beginning September 2nd, we will be meeting on the first Tuesday of every month at 7:00pm." This gathering is specifically designed to be a short time of rest, healing, and community for those hungry hearts looking for 45 minutes of peace and connection. We meet in the first 5 rows of the Sanctuary. Our format is a bit eclectic with prayer, journaling, conversation, story, Scripture, and art. Four songs provide the tone for the experiences that flow in between each of them. We come as we are, knowing this is a safe sacred space to be ourselves as we let go of the weight of responsibilities, ego, and stress. We receive and give with humble hearts and open hands. U matter. U belong. Be U.



ANNUAL TIMBERLIN GOLF TOURNAMENT



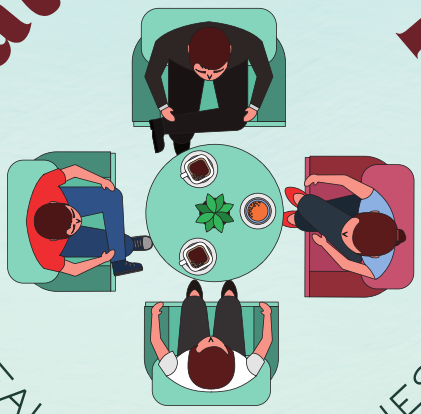
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

We are thrilled to be returning to Timberlin Golf Course. Once again, you can start your weekend early as we are sticking to a **FRIDAY AFTERNOON!**

It is one of Church's best events and biggest fundraisers. A great day of fun and Fellowship! Extend the invite to friends and co-workers that might be interested. All are welcome and it's a scramble, so no worries if you are not an incredible golfer – you'll be in good company!

If you have any question or want more information, please do not hesitate to reach out to Pete Donahue Pfdonahue91@gmail.com 860.922.3814 or Kent Stoddard kstoddard8@cox.net 860.666.6700.

A Seat At the Table



FALL SERMON SERIES

Hospitality, Belonging, and the Way of Jesus

Jesus didn't just preach inclusion, he lived it. He sat at tables with outcasts, told stories that healed divisions, and built a movement rooted in radical love. The Church is called to be a countercultural force of reconciliation, healing, and connection. This fall, we'll explore what it means to follow his lead by practicing deep hospitality, cultivating authentic relationships, and building trust, within the church and out in the world. Together, we'll reflect on how to create spaces of true belonging where all people know they are seen, valued, and loved.

SERMON SCHEDULE

Sept 7th: **"Come to the Table"**
Scripture: Luke 14:15–24 (The Great Banquet)
Rev. Melanie Enfield

Sept 14th: "The Gift of Strangers"
Scripture: Genesis 18:1–15 or Hebrews 13:2
Rev. Melanie Enfield

Sept 21st: "Unity, Not Uniformity"
Scripture: 1 Corinthians 12:12–27
Rev. Melanie Enfield

Sept 28th: "Belonging"
Scripture: Luke 15:11-32
Tobey Aubert

October 5th: "Breaking Bread, Breaking Barriers"
World Communion Sunday
Scripture: Acts 2:42–47; Luke 24:13–35 (Emmaus Road)
Rev. Melanie Enfield

October 12th: "Story-Shaped Community"
Scripture: John 4:1–42 (Woman at the Well)
Rev. Melanie Enfield

October 19th: "Love Your Neighbor: The Everyday Practice"
Scripture: Luke 10:25–37 (The Good Samaritan)
Rev. Melanie Enfield

October 26th: "Bringing the Light"
Scripture: Matthew 5:13-16
Rev. Melanie Enfield

ADULT BIBLE STUDY

You are invited to join our weekly Bible Study as we take a deeper dive into the scripture that shapes our Sunday worship. Together we'll open God's Word, explore its meaning for our lives, and share in honest conversation about how hospitality and belonging are at the heart of Christian ministry. Come with your questions, your faith, and your curiosity, there's a place at the table for you. Join us on October 2, 9, 23, and 30.

Led by Rev. Melanie Enfield and Jim Mulrooney in Room 207 at 7:00 pm.

CONFIRMATION 2025-26

Children in Grade 8 and above and their parents are welcome to attend our orientation session on **Sunday, September 14th** at 7:00 pm. Our weekly Confirmation Classes will begin on **Monday, September 15th** at 4:00 pm. Confirmation Sunday will be held on Sunday, April 28, 2026. Contact Rev. Melanie at 860-666-4689 for more details or if you have any questions.

YOUTH GROUP KICKOFF

FUSE

Middle School Youth Group meets twice each month throughout the school year. These meetings are focused on connection through fun activities. We will also be participating in the monthly church-wide service projects. The goal is to connect our Middle School students with each other and offer them a greater understanding of the way our church serves others. FUSE is a great addition to the faith formation that they receive in church school and confirmation class.

FUSE Kickoff
Gathering Place Sun 9/7/2025 12:00 PM
FUSE Table for Rise Against Hunger
Fellowship Hall Sun 9/21/2025 2:00 PM
FUSE Dinner Service - Community Dinner
Fellowship Hall Sat 10/4/2025 4:30 PM
FUSE Youth Group
Gathering Place Sun 10/5/2025 12:00 PM
FUSE - Halloween Party Help
Fellowship Hall Sun 10/26/2025 11:00 AM
FUSE Youth Group
Gathering Place Sun 11/2/2025 12:00 PM
FUSE - Turkey Drive (formerly Turkey and a $20)
Narthex & F.H. Sun 11/23/2025 9:30 AM
FUSE - Christmas Party
Fellowship Hall Sun 12/7/2025 11:00 AM

SALT

High School Youth Group meet twice per month throughout the school year. On the first Sunday of each month we will meet at Rev. Melanie's house for food, connection and faith discussion. And monthly we will have a unique activity to engage with amazing non-profits in our community that are reaching real people and their needs. The goal is to inspire our High School students to see and understand the needs around us and the opportunities available for them to help while we connect with each other as a church in the Newington community.

SALT Kick off Dinner and Conversation
Melanie's House Sun 9/7/2025 5:00 PM
SALT - Family Promise Visit
Offsite Sun 9/14/2025 5:00 PM
SALT - Dinner and Conversation
Melanie's House Sun 10/5/2025 5:00 PM
SALT - Hands on Hartford Visit
Offsite Sun 10/19/2025 5:00 PM
SALT - Dinner and Conversation
Melanie's House Sun 11/2/2025 5:00 PM
SALT - Human Services Visit
Offsite Mon 11/10/2025 4:30 PM

SACRED CONVERSATION

Creating Space for Connection, Compassion, and the Spirit of the Holy

We invite YOU to be a part of a Sacred Conversation group this fall. The purpose of these groups is to invite people into meaningful dialogue and to create space for both spiritual and human connection. These gatherings are rooted in radical welcome, offering a sense of belonging and room for honest, compassionate conversation.

They offer a safe and welcoming space to talk openly about faith and the questions that come with it. Whether you're exploring who God is or seeking to deepen your relationship with God, these groups provide the opportunity to grow spiritually while also strengthening our connections with one another. Through honest dialogue and shared reflection, we build trust, deepen community, and discover more about ourselves and our faith. Typically, they are about an hour long and are casual.

Logistics

Who: You! Yes, you! Anyone can start or facilitate a Sacred Conversation group, no special training or permission required. If you have an open heart and a willingness to welcome others with warmth and generosity, you're more than ready. Come as you are and help create a space for deeper conversation.
Where: Wherever makes sense for the group. A coffee shop. A park. A zoom call. A library. A brewery. The Gathering Place at Church or on your back patio. Wherever in the world you are, find a place that is conducive for your group.
Why: Because the world can feel lonely and disconnected, and that's exactly why we need people like you. Sacred Conversation groups are a way to bring people together, to share something real and meaningful. The gathering itself is powerful, but even more than that, it sends us back out into the world inspired to create more moments of connection, kindness, and care in our everyday lives.

New Member Classes

Have you been attending our Church for a while and would like to make a stronger commitment? Please consider joining our Church and attend our new Member Classes, a series of two, which will be held on Oct. 26th and Nov. 2nd in the Parlor, both at 7pm. New Members will be received on Sunday, Nov. 9th during the Worship Service. Please contact Rev. Melanie Enfield at 860-666-4689 or email her at menfield@newingtonucc.org if you are interested or have any questions.

PLANNED *GIVING* DO YOU HAVE A WILL?

If you're among the estimated 65% of Americans who don't have a will, you're not alone. But without one, your property will be distributed according to state laws—which may not reflect your personal wishes.

Creating a will gives you the power to make those important decisions yourself. You can:

· Name a trusted person to handle your affairs (your executor)
· Appoint guardians for your minor children
· Decide who will receive your assets

If you'd like to leave a gift to a friend, family member, or a cause you care about, a will makes that possible. Even small bequests can have a lasting impact. By including charitable donations in your will, you can support the people, values, and organizations that matter most to you—creating a legacy of generosity.

Having a will in place helps ensure that your wishes are honored. It also reduces stress, confusion, and potential conflict for your loved ones—and makes the process of settling your estate smoother.
Taking the time to create a will is a meaningful step in planning for the future. It brings peace of mind—for you and for those you care about.

If you're considering leaving a legacy that supports the mission of our church for generations to come, we invite you to contact a member of our Planned Giving Committee: Tom Dunn, Judy Warren, or Reverend Melanie Enfield. Your privacy will be fully respected.

JOIN OUR MISSIONS

Fidelco Guide Dog Presentation | Sept. 14th 11:15am, Parlor

Join us for the Fidelco Guide Dog Presentation as trainers and guide dogs show us who they are and the importance of what they do. They will share what makes them unique, who they serve, and the costs for clients. The Fidelco trainers will give an overview of their training protocol for the dogs and the trainers. There will be also be space for questions from those who attend. Come be a part of this informative session on the 14th!

Rise Against Hunger | Sept. 21st in Fellowship Hall

Rise Against Hunger works in countries worldwide to fight hunger, targeting communities facing high rates of food insecurity. We provide volunteer-packaged meals and other assistance, often through school feeding programs, to support nutrition, education and health for children and families facing hunger right now. We also partner with local leaders to implement sustainable agriculture and income-generating projects that support long-term solutions to food security and empower communities to become self-reliant and thrive.

Please sign up in the Narthex or online to help! We need volunteers for the following tasks and timeframes:

Setup: 12:00pm - 2:00pm
Meal Preparation: 2:00pm - 4:00pm
Cleanup: 4:00pm - 5:00pm

COMMUNITY DINNER RETURNS! | Oct. 4th & Nov. 1st in Fellowship Hall



Please join us for a Community Dinner on Saturdays, October 4th & November 1st in Fellowship Hall. Dinner will be served from 4:30-6:00 pm

We would like to take this opportunity to come together, sit down, and enjoy a meal with neighbors, friends, and the wider community.

For more information call 860-666-4689 All Are Welcome! In Kind Donations Accepted

GHIAA — Greater Hartford Interfaith Action Alliance

We have begun moving forward with becoming more active with the Greater Hartford Interfaith Action Alliance. Karen Serio and Tobey Aubert hosted a informational discussion time with a GHIAA representative this spring. Next steps will be decided together through another discussion time on October 12th after the worship service. The Greater Hartford Interfaith Action Alliance (GHIAA) has two main purposes: to build a diverse organization of faith leaders and lay members who work together to address social justice issues, and to advocate for equitable access to healthcare innovations. GHIAA aims to build relational power within the community to create positive change.

JOIN A CHOIR



Adult Choir

Rehearsals Wednesdays 7:15 – 8:30 pm.
First rehearsal September 3rd.

The Adult Choir sings Sunday services from September – June. They also sing 2 concerts a season, and occasional special events (Evensong, ballgames…). Music-reading not required. No audition.

Handbell Choir

Rehearsals Wednesdays 6:30 – 7:15 pm.
First rehearsal September 3rd.

Plays monthly in worship service, as well as concerts. Music-reading helpful.

Youth Choir

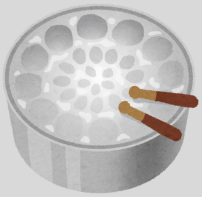
Our Youth Choir (Grade 2 through high school) sings choral music at the highest level, both independently and with the Adult Choir. Affiliated with the Royal School of Church Music, the choir sings regularly in worship services, concerts with orchestra, festivals with other choirs, and special events (like ballgames). They gain a sense of confidence, musicianship, and responsibility through choir membership.

The singers also form wonderful friendships! Along with singing, they have social activities like "fun nights" (games, pizza, pool parties, etc.) They learn a great deal about music, faith, languages, and singing, using an excellent RSCM curriculum. In May, they will combine with 6 other youth choirs from around the state in a festival service of Evensong at Trinity College Chapel, Hartford. They will also be singing the National Anthem at a Hartford Yard Goats game next summer!

The choir rehearses Sundays (11:15 – noon) from September through June.

First rehearsal, open to everyone new and returning, is on Sunday, September 7th from 11:15 to noon. Rehearsals are in the Choir Room (top floor, near bank). Please bring your child to observe and see what we do.

Questions? Contact Music Director, Peter Niedmann (860) 666-4689 pniedmann@newingtonucc.org



SACRED STEEL: *STEEL BAND*

The wonderful steel band from New Haven returns! Sacred Steel will lead our worship music on Sunday, November 23rd during the 10 am service. Their steel drum sound is joyful and uplifting. Bring a friend to this fun and special worship service. (Come early for an extended prelude!)



WILL YOU SUPPORT OUR CONCERT SERIES?

All our fabulous concerts are free admission. But we fund them through donations from the audience and many generous annual donors. If you've given in the past–thank you! Would you be able to help us again this season? If you've never given, please consider helping present all of our concerts with a donation. Our concerts bring beauty and joy to the community.

You may send your check to the church or leave it in the offering plate at a service. (Please make a note on your check "concert series"). You may Venmo your donation to @COCNewington.

1st Concerts this Season:
Sunday, October 19th at 4:00pm | Lisa Clayton Singers

Friday, November 14th at 7:30pm | Prog Rock Piano

CHURCH OF CHRIST
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UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
NEWINGTON, CT

1075 Main Street, Newington, CT 06111-2997

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