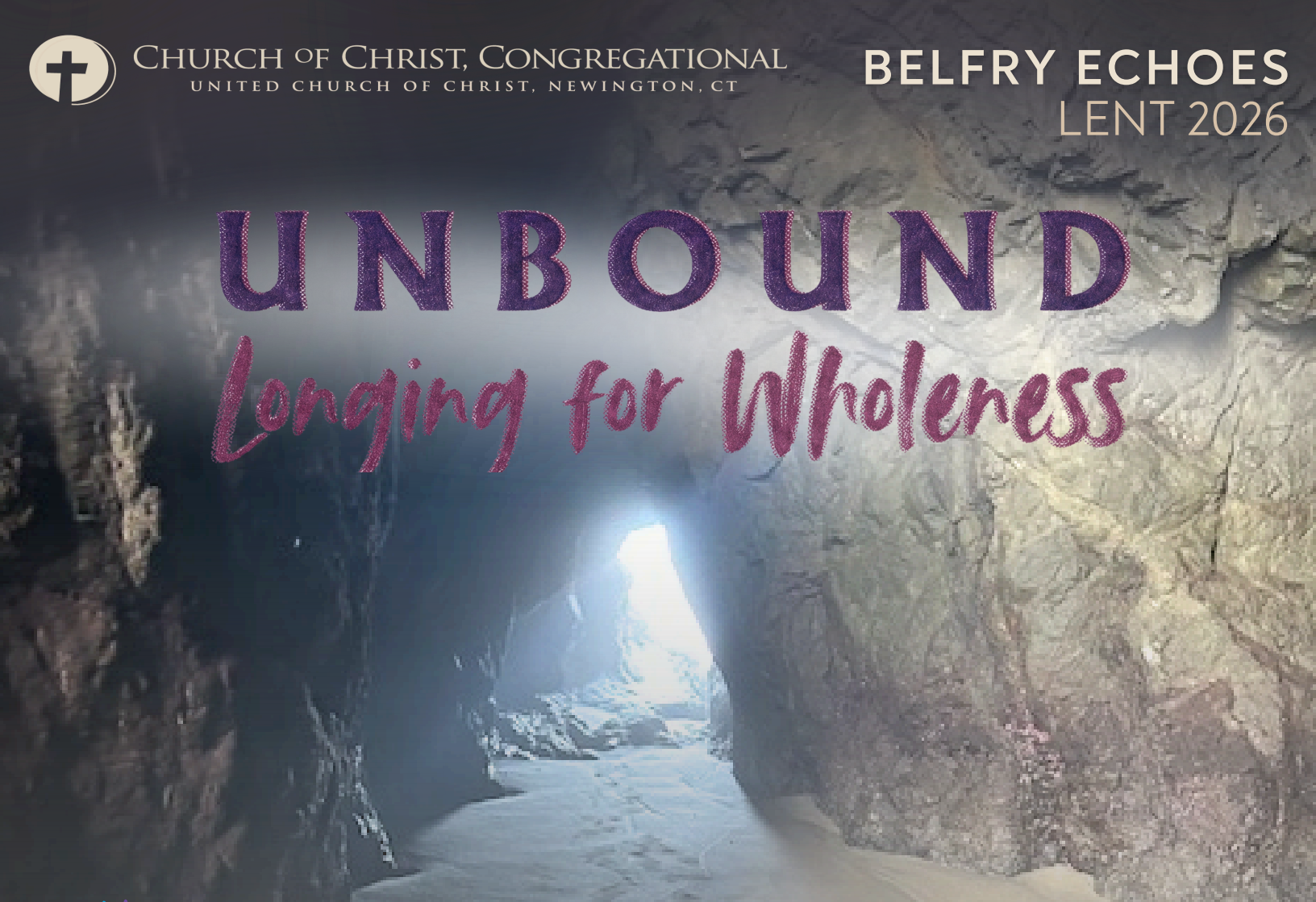
CHURCH OF CHRIST, CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, NEWINGTON, CT

BELFRY ECHOES
LENT 2026

UNBOUND

Longing for Wholeness



WE ARE AN OPEN AND AFFIRMING CONGREGATION

Worship Service |
Every Sunday at 10:00 am

Communion Service |
1st Sunday each month

Like us on Facebook

1075 Main Street
Newington, CT 06111

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UNBOUND
Longing for Wholeness

MESSAGE
from
Rev. Melanie Enfield

Lent is often described as a season of letting go, and perhaps that is its deepest invitation. It is a time to gently unbind ourselves from the trappings of the world that distract, exhaust, or quietly claim more of our hearts than we realize. Not to withdraw from life, but to return to what truly gives life.

At its core, Lent is a season of honesty. A time to come clean in our hearts. To notice what weighs us down, what pulls us away from love, and what keeps us from living with freedom and compassion. This is not about self-improvement or spiritual perfection, but about longing, longing for wholeness from the inside out.

During the Lenten season, we are invited to tend to our spiritual lives with intention: to make room for prayer, reflection, generosity, and renewed connection with God and one another. As we walk this Lenten path together, may we discover what it means to be unbound, more open, more grounded, and more fully alive in God's grace.

You are warmly invited to join us as we journey through this sacred season together.

Serving together, Melanie

At the Table with Jesus:
A Five Week Lenten Gathering

Thursdays beginning February 26th at 6:30pm

We invite you to join us for a five-week Lenten gathering that begins around the table. Each week, we will share a simple supper, open Scripture, and engage in thoughtful conversation as we travel with Jesus on the road to Jerusalem. Using William Willimon's reflections as our guide, we will explore the parables and stories Jesus told at tables, stories of searching shepherds, welcoming hosts, prodigal sons, and unexpected guests. These moments of shared meals reveal the surprising nature of God's kingdom and help us see how mercy, invitation, and radical hospitality prepare us for Holy Week.

As we gather, we will reflect on why sharing bread and wine became central to our faith and how the meaning of the Last Supper continues to shape our lives today. This begins on Thursday Feb. 26th at 6:00 pm, and is an open and welcoming space for anyone interested in deepening their faith, asking questions, and journeying through Lent in community.



Sermon Schedule

February 15th
Rev. Paul Goodman

Ash Wednesday 2/18
Rev. Melanie Enfield

February 22nd
Rev. Melanie Enfield

March 1st
Rev. Melanie Enfield

March 8th
Jim Mulrooney

March 15th
Rev. Melanie Enfield

March 22nd
Rev. Melanie Enfield

March 29th
Rev. Melanie Enfield

LENT EVENTS

SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE DINNER



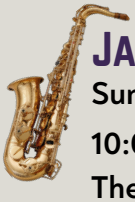
Tuesday, February 17th | 5:00pm

Please join us on February 17th in Fellowship Hall for pancakes, sausage and applesauce. Share a meal with friends while helping to support our youth service projects. Dinner service begins at 5pm and ends at 6:30pm. The cost is $8 for adults, $5 for children. 5-12 (maximum $25 per family). We look forward to seeing you there!

ASH WEDNESDAY

Wednesday, February 18th
Drive-By Ashes | 12:00pm - 12:30pm
Ash Wednesday Service | 7:00pm

Ash Wednesday is a time to acknowledge our humanity—our frailty, our struggles, our need for God. Yet it is also an invitation to turn and be reconciled to God and to receive grace. Are you feeling especially broken right now? Like life is falling apart, grief is heavy, or things have not turned out the way you imagined? Are you recognizing your own limitations? Join us for our Ash Wednesday service as we enter this sacred season together. Come as you are and remember—you are not alone. God meets us in the ashes and calls us into new life. Join us for a reflective service on Wednesday February 18th at 7:00 pm. Ashes will be available for those who wish to receive them.



JAZZ SUNDAY

Sunday, March 15th | 10:00am

The Hot Cat Jazz Band will be here to make great music during worship. Bring a friend!



BINGO NIGHT!

Friday, February 20th | 6:00pm

Come and join us for a fun night of Bingo on February 20th at 6:00pm. Bingo will be held in the Fellowship Hall. You can sign up in the Narthex if you would like to participate.



SLEEPOUT FOR THE HOMELESS

Friday, February 27th - 28th | 7:00pm

All 8th-12th graders are invited to take part in our annual SLEEP OUT from 7 pm Friday, February 27th to 6:30 am Saturday, February 28th. Proceeds from this fundraiser benefit Neighborhood Promise of Central Connecticut! $35 minimum donation, $50 minimum donation for families. Please contact Rev. Melanie Enfield with questions via email at menfield@newingtonucc.org.

MISSIONS



COMMUNITY DINNER

Saturday, March 7th | 4:30pm

Please join us on Saturday, March 7th from 4:30-6:00pm for the Community Dinner. A time where we can come together, sit down, and enjoy a meal with neighbors, friends and the wider community. All are welcome. Donations accepted.

CAMP HISPANIOLA FUNDRAISER

The Missions and Social Action Board will be holding a fundraiser during the month of March for Camp Hispaniola. For more information and to donate, please visit our table in Fellowship Hall following the worship service.

CHILD SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM

Our church sponsors three children, they are “Dennis” Ramirez (Philippines), Iniya V. (South India) and Nicholas Bennett (Jamaica). If you would like to sponsor a child, the monthly donation is $35 per child. To sign up or send them a letter, see the information on the Missions bulletin board in the South Hallway.

CHURCH OF CHRIST CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
NEWINGTON, CT

1075 Main Street, Newington, CT 06111-2997

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New Member Classes

Sundays, March 15 & 22, 2026 | 7pm in the Parlor
New Member Reception: Sunday, March 29, 2026 | 10am

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 October 27th and November 3rd in the Parlor, both at 7pm. New Members will be received on Sunday, November 10th 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.

Join us on our new texting platform! Text "connect" to 1-833-291-5660 to receive a once-a-week inspirational message or prayer from Rev. Melanie Enfield. Or sign up using the QR code below.

