CHURCH OF CHRIST
CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
NEWINGTON, CT

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CHURCH OF CHRIST, CONGREGATIONAL

BELFRY ECHOES

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

REV. MELANIE ENFIELD, ***SENIOR PASTOR***
MENFIELD@NEWINGTONUCC.ORG

PETER NIEDMANN, **ORGANIST AND DIRECTOR OF MUSIC**
PNIEDMANN@NEWINGTONUCC.ORG

REV. DR. KENNETH C. BROOKES, **PASTOR EMERITUS**
KENNETHCBROOKES@GMAIL.COM

MICHELLE DIXON, ***OFFICE MANAGER***
OFFICEADMIN@NEWINGTONUCC.ORG

BRIA SHAW, ***ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT***
BSHAW@NEWINGTONUCC.ORG

MARY JANE DIPAOLA, **FINANCE**
MJDIPAOLA@NEWINGTONUCC.ORG

WE ARE AN OPEN AND AFFIRMING CONGREGATION

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK

SPRING | SUMMER 2026



A MESSAGE FROM Rev. Melanie

LOOKING AHEAD

Several people have asked what my “plans” are after I retire. The honest answer is, we’re not entirely sure yet. Jon will retire in June of 2027 at the end of the school year, so we are holding things loosely for now. We know that Newington will not be our “forever” home, but where we will land is still unfolding.

In the meantime, we will embark on some practicalilities, sorting through our home, preparing it to sell, and discerning what comes next. Jon is especially looking forward to following the coaching careers of our sons, which likely means many basketball and baseball games in our future. And I am very much looking forward to having more time to visit our daughter in Scotland and my mother in Oregon.

When I announced my retirement, I did so with nine months’ notice to allow time for a thoughtful and healthy transition, for both the church and for me. I hope to support that process in ways that are helpful but not intrusive, offering insight when it’s needed while also making space for what comes next.

Part of my work in these remaining months will be tending to the details, organizing our database, clearing out old files, and helping boards and committees prepare for this transition. My hope is to leave things in a good place, ready for the next chapter of ministry.

But more than anything, I am looking forward to spending time with you, time to connect, to sit down for coffee or lunch, to share stories and conversation with many of you. These moments feel especially meaningful in this season. I would love to share this time with you, so please feel free to reach out and invite me to get together.

With gratitude,
Melanie

PREACHING Schedule

May 24 Jonathan Tinkham
May 31 Rev. Melanie Enfield
June 7 Rev. Melanie Enfield
June 14 ***Children’s Day***
June 21 Rev. Melanie Enfield
June 28 Jim Mulrooney
July 5 Rev. Melanie Enfield
July 12 Rev. Sara Salomons-Wilson
July 19 Mitch Page
July 26 Jim Mulrooney
Aug 9 Rev. Melanie Enfield
Aug 16 Rev. Melanie Enfield
Aug 23 Rev. Melanie Enfield
Aug 30 Rev. Melanie Enfield
Sep 6 Rev. Paul Goodman
Sep 13 ***Rally Day*** Rev. Melanie Enfield
Sep 20 Rev. Leslie Jackson *Area Conference Minister*
Sep 27 Rev. Melanie Enfield

PROGRESSIVE DINNER



The PROGRESSIVE DINNER is BACK!

What is the PROGRESSIVE DINNER? Very simply it’s a fun night with Church friends you know and some you haven’t met yet. Easy as 1-2-3!

1) You go to someone’s house for appetizers.
2) You split off into smaller groups and go to a different house for dinner.
3) EVERYONE meets back at the Church for dessert and coffee.

Mark your Calendars for Saturday, June 20th.

Growth & Development takes care of all the coordination and details.

We do need folks to volunteer to host dinner or host appetizers at their house. We are thrilled to be bringing this event back.

Please contact Pete Donahue (pfdonahue91@gmail.com; 860.922.3814) with questions or to offer to host.

There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex. Don’t miss out!!

NAMI MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH

This Mental Health Awareness Month, we’re coming together around the theme: **“Stigma grows in silence. Healing begins in community.”** It’s a reminder that connection, conversation, and shared experiences are powerful tools for change. Let your voice be heard, you are not alone!!!

What you say matters and can make a world of difference for someone.

Stop by our NAMI Table in Fellowship Hall on Sunday, May 17 for more information and resources, bring any questions you may have as well. Thank you for your support! **All NAMI programs, resources and events are free.**

MARKET SQUARE THRIFT SHOP

What can you do with 2 hours? Read a book? Visit a friend? Mow the lawn? Or you can volunteer at Market Square Thrift Shop. We are open Wednesday through Saturday from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm. Teams of 2 work a two-hour shift. We interact and visit with our customers, many of whom are ‘regulars’ and sort and price donated items, such as clothing, shoes and household goods.

The Thrift Shop has been in business for more than thirty years, always staffed by volunteers. Many of our volunteers have been doing this for years, but our numbers need to be replenished. You can volunteer for a regular 2-hour shift each week or put your name on the list of substitutes, working when you are able. Please consider joining this valuable outreach by speaking to Deb Jeanfaivre, Vaille LaChance, Sherry Affleck, Cindy Kaiser or any other volunteer, or emailing Deb at armil1941@gmail.com.Your participation will help keep the thrift shop in business for another thirty years.

MUSIC NEWS

SPRING **POPS** CONCERT

Sunday, May 17 at 4:00. The Phantom of the Opera, The Beatles, Les Misérables, The Little Mermaid, Suffs, Gershwin's Rhapsody in Blue and more. Choirs, band, soloists. FREE CONCERT

Concert Reception to follow in Fellowship Hall.





TRINITY COLLEGE **EVENSONG**

Our Youth Choir, along with 5 choirs from around the state, will sing a service of Choral Evensong at Trinity College Chapel, 300 Summit St., Hartford. The service will be **Sunday, May 31 at 5:00**. Evensong is a beautiful ancient liturgy, filled with a variety of choral music. Please come support our choristers!



BELLS ON THE GREEN

Light carillon music for a summer evening. Bring a lawn chair and refreshment!

July 5th - 6:30pm
FREE CONCERT



Yard Goats GAME

Yard Goats Game! **July 8 at 7:10 pm** we will have a church outing to the Yard Goats game. The Adult and Youth choirs will sing the national anthem. Tickets will be on sale for $16 in coffee hour in the weeks leading up to the game.

GOT LUNCH PROGRAM

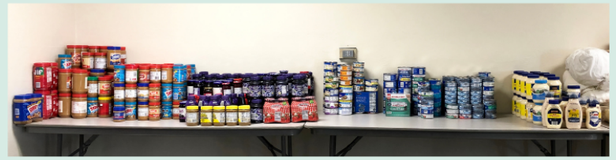
DONATE OR *VOLUNTEER*

Got Lunch Newington has been providing summer lunches for Newington children since 2016. We anticipate this year's per child cost will be $170. This will purchase peanut butter, jelly, canned tuna, canned chicken, mayonnaise, bread and fresh fruit. Funding is provided from grants, individual donations and food drives. You can donate through our website, gotlunch.org, or Venmo and write Got Lunch in the 'for' section. Or you can send a check to church with Got Lunch in the memo section. Any amount is welcome.

Each Sunday during the summer, volunteers pack grocery bags with lunch items. The bags are then delivered to the families. We are always looking for new volunteers. You don't need to be available every week, Got Lunch works with your schedule. You can complete a volunteer form at our website, gotlunch.org. Got Lunch will begin June 21st.

Our first food drive is **May 30** from 9am-1pm at the church outside the Cedar St. doors to Fellowship Hall. We also accept donations each Sunday in the Narthex.

The children of Newington thank you!



SUNDAES ON *WEDNESDAY*

July 15th at 6:00pm - 7:00pm



We need volunteers to greet folks and serve ice cream at "Sundaes on Wednesday" night on July 15th. Please plan to meet at Mill Pond at 5:45 pm. We will be serving ice cream from 6 - 7pm. We have a blast serving free ice cream to the community and greeting folks that make up our neighborhood. Please sign-up in the Narthex.

HEALING SERVICE

May 31st following Morning Worship in the Sanctuary

Where we come together in prayer for physical, emotional, and spiritual healing.

SERVICE OF BAPTISM

Are you interested in being baptized?

Anyone wishing baptism for themselves or their children, are asked to contact Rev. Melanie. Call the church office or email Rev. Melanie directly.

CONGRATULATIONS
2026 CONFIRMANDS



CHILDREN'S DAY

JUNE 14TH AT 10:00AM

The worship service will have a family focus as we look back at our church school year and honor those who taught and cared for our students. After service, the Christian Education board will host a party outside during the coffee hour with an **ice cream truck**, a visit from a **magician** and plenty of **fun games** and **surprises** for young and everyone else!

Dinner & Conversation

FINAL GATHERING - JUNE 7TH, 5PM

SALT dinner and conversation at 5pm at Melanie's house. This time together will be our last for the program year. We have enjoyed laughing together, eating together and sharing our hearts together.

Congratulations Grads!

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CLASS OF 2026!

Congrats to all High School & College Grads! We are so happy for your success and we wish you well in the next steps of your journey to success!

ASP Appalachia Service Project

The **Appalachia Service Project (ASP)** 2026 team is in the home stretch of planning our trip! ASP provides one of the most rewarding service opportunities in the nation — bringing thousands of volunteers from around the country to rural Central Appalachia to repair homes for low-income families (www.asphome.org).

Our team of 25 is excited to be heading to **Jonesville, Virginia**, this summer. We will begin our journey on June 27th and return on July 4th.

The theme for this year is **Love Your Neighbor!**

Theme comes from Romans 12:12-13 *"Let your hope make you glad. Be patient in time of trouble and never stop praying. Take care of God's needy people and welcome strangers into your home."*

We are very grateful for the amazing support that our congregation has consistently provided for over 3 DECADES.

TAG SALE

ASP Tag Sale – Looking for Donations

Time to clean up and get ready for the ASP Tag Sale, June 6. Items can be dropped off at Fellowship Hall, June 2-5, from 6-8pm. Items we can accept are: un-upholstered furniture, small appliances, tools, household goods, etc. We can't accept: clothing, upholstered furniture, large appliances, television sets or any large furniture. **Calling all past ASPers**, we are a small team this year and could use some help with the tag sale setup and sale. If you can volunteer or have any questions, please call Tom Porell at 860-416-8965.

ASP Tag Sale: June 6

Appalachia Service Project (ASP). Saturday, June 6, 8:30am-2pm. No previews or early birds. Books, tools, furniture, small appliances, household goods, etc. Help us fund our trip to help our neighbors in Appalachia.

ASP Commissioning | June 7th during Morning Worship