



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

BELFRY ECHOES

Fall 2023



WE ARE AN OPEN AND
AFFIRMING CONGREGATION



Like us on Facebook

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Worship Service |
Every Sunday at 10:00 am

Communion Service |
1st Sunday each month

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a message
FROM THE PASTOR

I missed this Church, and I am happy to be back in the middle of this wonderful community. My sabbatical was exactly what I needed! Thank you! I had plenty of down time to read, to walk, to garden and to swim. My favorite was to get up first thing in the morning to sit outside with a cup of tea and to spend time with God. I attended the festival of homiletics and listened to various webinars and podcasts. Jon and I went to Scotland and had a fun adventure that was planned entirely by our daughter, Kelly. We spent time with all three of our children, as well as my mom and extended family. Our time on the Oregon coast was absolutely stunning with long walks on the beach.

Yet, I am very happy to be back with all of you once again. I missed this community and was reminded how much I love being in ministry. What an honor it is to love and serve God as a “profession.” I look forward to seeing all of you in worship or around the church, or even online. May we all continue to grow in faith and service.

Hope to see you soon!

Rev. Melanie Enfield

Pastor

Stewardship

Because of you...

Our church changes lives

We grow in faith and service

We share our gifts and talents

Our outreach knows no bounds

Our “stewardship” season begins on September 24th. This is an opportunity for all of us to consider how we use our finances and how we honor God with our money. We are grateful for all the people who give financially to this Church **and because of you we change lives!** When you give to this community of faith, you are not only supporting this congregation, but you are also offering care to the broader community. It is these small acts of giving, acts of care, connection and love that in time, help to heal the hurt in the world.

Youth EVENTS



FUSE Group Meetings

Kickoff – Sunday, September 17, 2023 | 6PM

The FUSE Group is for middle school students, the LIGHT of our Church! We hope that participation in the program lights a “spark” to ignite individual and lifelong faith journeys. Students in grades 6th through 8th are welcome to join the group! The group will meet every first and third Sunday of the month at 6pm.



SALT Group Dinners

First Sundays | 5PM

The SALT Group, for high school students, will come together twice a a month to serve, grow, and fellowship. Every 1st Sunday of the month, the group will have dinner at Melanie’s. Every 3rd Sunday of the month, the group will serve dinner at Center Church (beginning October 15th). Students in grades 9th through 12th are welcome to join the group!



Family First Friday

Friday, October 6, 2023; November 3, 2023 | 6PM

If you don't think faith formation can be fun, you haven't been to Family First Friday! These once-monthly services are designed especially for children and families. Join us at 6 pm on the first Friday of each month for music, puppets, singing, dancing, and more! Invite a friend...all are welcome!



Halloween Party

Sunday, October 29, 2023 | 1PM–2:30PM

Join our Halloween Party for tricks and treats planned by our youth groups! Wear your costume and invite your family and friends. All are welcome to join!



Church School Open House

Sunday, October 15, 2023 | 11AM

Our Church School Teachers will host a brief Open House on Sunday, October 15th immediately after worship. Parents and grandparents are invited to join in a brief reception in Room 207, followed by a visit to their child's Church School classroom. We encourage all families to attend.



Turkey and a \$20

Sunday, November 19, 2023 | 11AM

We are looking for your donations in this annual FOODSHARE collection. The FUSE group will be at all of the Church entrances collecting frozen (not fresh) turkeys and/or monetary donations! FUSE youth are invited to gather in the Youth Room at 9AM to help make posters for the event.



 **Family Promise**
of Central Connecticut

WALKATHON

Using Our Feet To Help Families Get On Theirs

The Family Promise Walkathon is on October 14 at 9:00. We are holding the walk in a new beautiful location - Pistol Creek in Berlin. The registration site is now open. We are also selling T-Shirts with a great logo-check it out on the site. Any questions please contact Cheryl Liedke (cherylliedke@gmail.com)



26th ANNIVERSARY Timberlin Golf Tournament

It's that time of year again when we ask you to save the date!

We are thrilled to be returning to Timberlin Golf Course on Saturday, September 23, 2023. 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. There are player & sponsorship flyers available in the church hallway. If you have any questions, reach out to Pete Donahue (pfdonahue91@gmail.com).

Thanks in advance, your support over the years is great appreciated!

The Golf Committee

Philippians Bible Study: Chasing Happy

Many of us spend our lives chasing happy through relationships, success, and the next adventure. Yet, we only discover a dryness in our souls. Why? Because we're chasing the wrong kind of happy. We chase temporary happiness instead of the eternal happiness found in Jesus. We chase the wrong things. Rather, happiness is ours when we chase God's joy, God's purpose, God's unity, God's contentment, and God's peace.

If you've ever struggled with laying hold of true happiness or want to discover how Jesus is a part of your happiness, this study is for you! Discover the incredible truth that happy isn't found in the circumstances around us, but the power of Jesus in us.

We will meet in person on Thursday evenings for 6 weeks beginning Oct. 12th to Nov. 16th. Email Melanie to sign up. (menfield@newingtonucc.org)

Baptism SUNDAYS



Services of Baptism are planned for **October 1, 2023** and **November 19, 2023**. Anyone wishing baptism for themselves or their children, are asked to contact Rev. Melanie Enfield at 860-666-4689 or via her email at menfield@newingtonucc.org.



CONFIRMATION 2023-2024

Children in Grade 8 and above and their parents are welcome to attend our orientation session on Sunday, September 17th at 7:00 pm. Our weekly Confirmation Classes will begin on Monday, September 18th at 4:00 pm. Confirmation Sunday will be held on Sunday, April 28, 2024. Contact Rev. Melanie at 860-666-4689 for more details or if you have any questions.



WORLD COMMUNION DAY

Sunday, October 1, 2023 | 10AM

Service will be followed by a special coffee hour featuring International treats!

SUNDAY FEATURED MUSIC



Sacred Steel November 26th | 10am

Sacred Steel will provide music for our 10 am worship service on Sunday, November 26th. A renowned steel pan group, based at St. Luke's, New Haven, Sacred Steel will play all the music that morning, including an extended prelude beginning at 9:50. Don't miss this unique and joyful ensemble! Open to all!



UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

Neighbors In Need Offering

Collected October 1st

This annual UCC offering collection will go toward grants to help fund special missions in the World. Currently, these grants are helping school age children have access to greater education opportunities. Your donation will help someone in need!

We are looking for Christian Education Volunteers!

The Christian Education Board is always looking for volunteers for our Church School program for Pre-K through 7th grade.

Our current volunteer needs include:

Grade 1-3 Church School teacher (Monthly commitment)

A church school teacher leads the weekly class. The CE Board provides the curriculum including videos and worksheets and craft supplies so all you need to

do is determine what you need for the week's lesson from the lesson plan, pull the items and teach the class. We are currently scheduling teachers for a month at a time and you can volunteer for multiple months.

Pre-K/K and Grade 1-3 Church School Assistants (Weekly commitment)

Church School Assistants help the lead teachers during church school including helping the kids with crafts and activities. This is a perfect opportunity for high schoolers looking for community service projects or someone looking to be part of the church school program but not ready to commit to a full month of teaching.

We also have occasional substitute teaching opportunities in our older student (Grades 4-7) classrooms. You may sign up in the Narthex, or use a sign up card, or email Angela Tedesco (angelad198@hotmail.com) or Dagny Bronson (dmew01@yahoo.com) or scan the QR code.



ASP Informational Meeting Sunday, September 24th, 11:30am in Room 207. Have you wanted to experience Appalachia Service Project trip but you are not sure of all that goes on or how much skill you need? Well this meeting gives you a chance to talk with youth and adults who served in June and ask them your burning questions. They will share their personal experience and insight.

ASP is our churches ministry to our neighbors in Appalachia for over 30 years. We spend 6 month preparing with monthly meetings, skill training, fund raising and community building then travel to Appalachia for a week of service and fellowship. This experience is open to youth who have completed 9th grade and adults, membership to our church is optional.

Music news



victor markiw

Benefit concert for Ukraine relief. Piano music of Mozart, Schubert, Skoryk and more.

\$20 donation

Sunday, October 15th, 4:00pm

notes over storrs

A cappella singing at its best, from the University of Connecticut.

Sunday, November 12th, 4:00pm



youth choir fun nights

September 25th | 6:30pm

November 26th | 6:30pm

help our concert series!

Please consider making a financial gift to help us present all these fine concerts this season. Write "concert series" in memo on your check.

You can also donate on our website: newingtonucc.org. Thank you!

CHOIR SEEKS NEW SINGERS!

QUALITY

Affiliated with Royal School of Church Music

FUN

Choristers make great friends while making music together

ACTIVE

Lots of performances, with adults and professional orchestra



try a choir!

All our choirs welcome new members: Adult Choir; Youth Choir (grade 2 - 8); Handbell Choir. Please speak with Peter Niedmann for more details - pniedmann@newingtonucc.org (860) 666-4689.

CHURCH OF CHRIST, CONGREGATIONAL
1075 Main Street, Newington, CT
(860) 666-4689
Contact Music Director - Peter Niedmann
pniedmann@newingtonucc.org



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



 **fall calendar** 

FUSE Group Scavenger Hunt September 17th, 6pm
Confirmation Parent Meeting September 17th, 7pm
Council Meeting September 19th, 7pm
ASP Informational Meeting September 24th, 11:30am
Youth Advisors Meeting September 24th, 11:30am
Youth Choir Fun Night September 24th, 5pm
FUSE Hike at Cedar Mountain October 1st, 1pm
SALT Dinner & Conversation October 1st, 5pm
Family First Friday October 6th, 6pm
Common Meeting October 10th, 7pm
Philippians Bible Study October 12th, 7pm
Piano Recital: Victor Markiw October 15th, 4pm
Council Meeting October 17th, 7pm
Philippians Bible Study October 19th, 7pm
FUSE Group Halloween Planning October 22nd, 6pm
Philippians Bible Study October 26th, 7pm
Halloween Party October 29th, 1pm
New Member Class October 29th, 7pm
Philippians Bible Study November 2nd, 7pm

Family First Friday November 3rd, 6pm
SALT Dinner & Conversation November 5th, 5pm
New Member Class November 5th, 7pm
FUSE: Election Day of Service November 7th
Philippians Bible Study November 9th, 7pm
A Cappella Concert November 12th, 4pm
Common Meeting November 14th, 7pm
Philippians Bible Study November 16th, 7pm
FUSE: Turkey and a \$20 November 19th, 11am
FUSE Group November 19th, 6pm
Council Meeting November 21st, 7pm
Thanksgiving Day... November 23rd
Youth Choir Fun Night November 26th, 5pm

