



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

## BELFRY ECHOES

# MEETING GOD IN THE WILDERNESS

LENT 2025



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

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During the upcoming Lenten season, we will explore the theme: "Meeting God in the Wilderness." This theme invites us to reflect on the transformative experiences of biblical figures who encountered God during times of transition and challenge. By delving into these narratives, we can gain insights into how our own periods of uncertainty and difficulty can become profound opportunities for spiritual growth and deeper communion with the Divine.

The wilderness, in particular, holds significant meaning during Lent. It symbolizes a space of testing, learning, and transformation—a place where comforts are stripped away, and individuals come face to face with their true selves and with God. Jesus' 40 days in the wilderness, for instance, serve as a model for our own Lenten journey, encouraging us to embrace periods of discomfort and uncertainty as opportunities for spiritual growth. Similarly, the "in-between" moments of life—those times when we find ourselves between the familiar and the unknown—can be rich with divine encounter. These liminal spaces challenge us to rely more deeply on our faith and to remain open to the guidance of the Holy Spirit. By embracing the uncertainties of these transitional periods, we can experience profound personal and communal transformation.

## SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE DINNER

Tuesday, March 4th | 5:00pm

Please join us on March 4th 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, March 5th  
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 March 5th at 7:00 pm. Ashes will be available for those who wish to receive them.



## NEW MEMBERS CLASS

Sundays, March 9th & 16th | 7:00pm

Thinking about making our church your spiritual home? If you've been attending for a while and feel ready to take the next step, we'd love for you to join our New Member Classes! These two sessions will help you explore what it means to be part of our church family. Classes will be held on March 9th and March 16th at 7 PM in the Parlor, and new members will be welcomed during worship on Sunday, March 23rd. If you're interested or have any questions, please reach out to Rev. Melanie Enfield ([menfield@newingtonucc.org](mailto:menfield@newingtonucc.org)). We look forward to walking this journey with you!



## LENTEN DISCUSSION GROUP

Thursdays, beginning March 13th | 7:00pm

As we approach the Lenten season, you are invited to join our discussion group centered on the theme "Meeting God in the Wilderness." Each week, we will delve into the Bible passages that will be the focus of the upcoming Sunday's sermon, allowing us to engage more deeply in God's Word. In exploring these scriptures, we will reflect on the transformative experiences of biblical figures who encountered God during times of transition and challenge. Together, we will confront the weight of our human experience, embracing the pain and challenges of life, and seeking to understand the transformative power of these moments.

This group offers a space for reflection, shared insights, and mutual support as we navigate these profound themes. By engaging deeply with the scriptures and with one another, we aim to enrich our spiritual lives and foster a stronger sense of community. We will meet for 5 weeks on Thursday evenings beginning March 13th at 7:00 pm. Please sign up in the narthex or email Melanie ([menfield@newingtonucc.org](mailto:menfield@newingtonucc.org)).



## JAZZ SUNDAY

Sunday, March 16th | 10:00am

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



## STRATEGIC PLAN LUNCHEON

Sunday, March 16th | 11:30am (Lunch Included)

Now is the time to take stock, celebrate our progress, note what we haven't gotten done, what we still want to do, and check in with our congregation about what they see as the priorities for the next few years. What is God calling us to do next? Join us on March 16th as we review our strategic plan and discuss our goals for the coming years. This is a great time for everyone in our church to collectively have input on the direction for our church. Together we will answer the question "What is God calling us to do next?"



## HEALING SERVICE Sunday, March 23rd | 11:15am

We warmly invite you to join us for a special Healing Service, where we will come together in prayer for physical, emotional, and spiritual healing. This service is an opportunity to find comfort, strength, and renewal through the power of prayer and the presence of a supportive community. All are welcome.

# Holy Week

## SCHEDULE



### PALM SUNDAY

Sunday, April 13th | 10:00am

Join the Palm Parade! The entire congregation is encouraged to gather for our Parade of Palms on Palm Sunday, March 24th at 9:55 am. We will begin in Fellowship Hall, march around the church, then back inside to start our Worship Service.



### MAUNDY THURSDAY

Thursday, April 17th | 7:00pm



### GOOD FRIDAY

Friday, April 18th | 7:00pm



# Easter

Sunday, April 20th

**Easter Sunrise Service | 6:00am**

Indian Hill Golf Course

111 Golf Street, Newington, CT

**Easter Sunday Services | 9:00am & 11:00am**

"From Despair to Hope" Rev. Melanie Enfield

Brass, timpani, organ, handbells, Youth & Adult Choirs  
Hallelujah chorus - Handel; Toccata - Widor

## SERMON SCHEDULE

### MARCH 2ND

Prayer Sets the Stage for Change

Luke 9:28-36

Rev. Melanie Enfield

### MARCH 9TH

Meeting God in the Wilderness

Luke 4:1-14

Rev. Melanie Enfield

### MARCH 16TH

Holy Whining: When

Complaining is a Prayer

Luke 13: 31-35; Psalm 13

Rev. Melanie Enfield

### MARCH 23RD

Seeking the Lost: God's Unfailing Pursuit

Isaiah 55:1-9; Luke 15: 1-7

Rev. Melanie Enfield

### MARCH 30TH

To Be Determined

Scripture

Tobey Aubert

### APRIL 6TH

Transformation through Mercy

Luke 19:1-10

Rev. Melanie Enfield



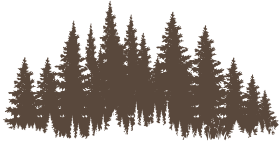
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We invite you to donate to One Great Hour of Sharing in support of disaster, refugee, and developing ministries. You can give using the envelope inside.



## LENTEN CALENDAR March - April 2025

- March 1st Community Dinner | 4:30pm
- March 2nd SALT Dinner & Conversation | 5:00pm
- March 4th Gentle Yoga | 9:15am
- March 4th Women's Ministry Group | 10:30am
- March 4th Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner | 5:00pm
- March 5th Ash Wednesday Drive Thru | 12:00pm
- March 5th Ash Wednesday Service | 7:00pm
- March 7th Family First Friday | 7:00pm
- March 9th Welcome Team Training | 11:30am
- March 9th ASP Mac & Cheese Dinner | 5:30pm
- March 9th New Member Class | 7:00pm
- March 11th Gentle Yoga | 9:15am
- March 11th Common Meeting Night | 7:00pm
- March 13th Lenten Discussion Group | 7:00pm
- March 16th Jazz Sunday | 10:00am
- March 16th Strategic Planning Luncheon | 11:30am
- March 16th FUSE Group | 5:00pm
- March 16th SALT Group Outing | 6:30pm
- March 16th New Member Class | 7:00pm
- March 18th Gentle Yoga | 9:15am
- March 18th Council Meeting | 7:00pm
- March 20th Lenten Discussion Group | 7:00pm
- March 23rd New Member Sunday | 10:00am
- March 23rd Healing Service | 11:15am
- March 25th Gentle Yoga | 9:15am
- March 27th Lenten Discussion Group | 7:00pm
- March 30th Notes Over Storrs Concert | 4:00pm
- April 1st Women's Ministry Group | 10:30am
- April 3rd Lenten Discussion Group | 7:00pm
- April 4th Family First Friday | 6:00pm
- April 5th Community Dinner | 4:30pm
- April 6th GHIAA Spotlight | 11:30am
- April 6th SALT Dinner & Conversation | 5:00pm
- April 8th Common Meeting | 7:00pm
- April 10th Lenten Discussion Group | 7:00pm
- April 15th Council Meeting | 7:00pm
- April 17th Maundy Thursday Service | 7:00pm
- April 18th Good Friday Service | 7:00pm
- April 20th Easter Sunrise Service | 6:00am
- April 20th Easter Morning Service | 9:00am & 11:00am
- April 27th Confirmation Sunday | 10:00am
- April 27th FUSE Event | 5:00pm
- April 27th SALT Event | 6:30pm
- April 29th U. experience | 6:30pm