



Belfry Echoes

SPRING/SUMMER 2024



2023-2024 Confirmation Graduates: Livia Harris, Rita Marie Haeseler-Andrade & Grace Miller


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

Rev. Melanie Enfield, *Senior Pastor*
menfield@newingtonucc.org

Tobey Aubert, *Program & Outreach Coordinator*
taubert@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

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 Newington, CT 06111

 www.newingtonucc.org

 churchofchrist@newingtonucc.org

 860.666.4689

 860.666.5871

Panera
FUNDRAISING



Help support us!
GOT LUNCH NEWINGTON

**25%
 OF SALES
 WILL BE
 DONATED**

May 23, 2024
4:00 pm to 8:00 pm EDT
3120 Berlin Turnpike, Newington, CT

Use code **FUND4U** at online checkout, in the Panera App,
 or at the kiosk in-cafe.*

Bring this flyer or show a digital copy to your cashier when ordering at the cafe or enter the
 promo code **FUND4U** at checkout on Panerabread.com or the Panera App to ensure your
 organization gets a portion of the proceeds.**

Learn more at fundraising.panerabread.com

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*Gift card and catering order placed on Panerabread.com, and delivery orders placed through third-party sites are excluded and will not count towards the event. Other restrictions apply. For complete details, visit: <http://fundraising.panerabread.com/terms-conditions/>. **Services vary by cafe.

A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR MELANIE

As spring is beginning to show itself, I am excited for the new life that is appearing around me. Tulips are my favorite! At the same time, I am excited about what is happening in the life of the church. Signs of new growth are evident. Various people visit us each Sunday, and people are longing to make meaning in their lives and to experience a sense of the sacred. What we offer is desperately needed in our society today: a place where people can come to know a God who is accepting and generous in Spirit, a place to belong and to be known, a place to connect with others and help those in need. My prayer is that we can share a message of hope and that our church will continue to grow and thrive. Yet to do so, we must be clear in our own identity. I believe that our church is primed to grow. Please pray for our congregation that God may inspire us to share God's love with purpose and intentionality.

With joy,

Rev. Melanie Enfield
Pastor



Focus Language: Focus Language guides our words and actions for greater impact and growth in our community. Our church has many wonderful ministries and events that share God's love with the world. Our next step is to increase our effectiveness in being the hands and heart of God on Main Street. Focus Language provides clear, memorable statements to unite us for greater impact in three areas - our Motivation, Goal, and Intent.

Motivation: Our Why statement. What do we want to be known for believing? Why are we here in this place at this time? In listening to stories of recent and long-time members, a common thread of the loving acceptance of God emerged which resulted in this answer, "We believe God loves unconditionally and inclusively." That love of God is why we are here.

Goal: Our Worthy Cause statement. What do we want to be known for doing? What is our dream? Through the Strategic Plan, three categories of needs emerged involving relationships, wellness, and service to the Newington area, which resulted in the answer, "We dream of a connected, stable, and fulfilled community." Those three things are the lasting impact we want to make.

Intent: Our Action statement. How can we declare our intentions in an easily recognizable manner? So many members we talked to loved the answer, "We choose to love on purpose to realize that dream." That intentional action is what will keep us focused on the best and keep us away from distractions.

Let us unlock the potential we have together as a church community touched by the love of God and ready to see the Newington area thrive in spirit, mind, and body.

All is Grace,

Tobey Aubert
Program and Outreach Coordinator
He/Him

youth EVENTS

FUSE

Middle School Youth Group is meeting one more time on **May 19th at 6pm** with our Program and Outreach Coordinator, Tobey Aubert, and other Youth Advisors. We look forward to spending time together as we wrap up the school year, share our hopes for the summer, play games and enjoy a little break from the end of the school year stresses. June 2nd will be a special wrap up party in the afternoon! More details to come!



SALT

High School Youth Group will be serving a meal at Center Church in Hartford one last time before the summer schedule begins. We prepare and serve a meal to around 50 unhoused folks in the Hartford area. If your high school student would like to be a part of doing something that helps others and gives a bit of great perspective on life, please reach out to the Program and Outreach Coordinator, Tobey Aubert.

On **June 2nd**, Rev. Melanie will host dinner and conversation at her home.



CHILDREN'S DAY

June 9th is our Children's Service in Sunday morning worship! Kids matter! Let's celebrate them! Join us for this special worship service as we acknowledge our teachers, honor our graduating seniors, and celebrate the end of another church school year! All are invited to join us on the front lawn of the church after the service for entertainment, balloon animals, and treats from the ice cream truck!



BAPTISMS

Services of Baptism are planned for May 26th, June 16th and August 18th. Anyone wishing baptism for themselves or their children, are asked to contact Rev. Melanie call the church office or via email (menfield@newingtonucc.org)

Music news

Spring Pops!



CHORAL MUSIC from
Hamilton, Frozen, Chicago, Billy Joel, and more

MAY 19 - 4:00

Church of Christ, Congregational
1075 Main Street, Newington, CT
FREE CONCERT



SPRING POPS Concert Reception

Come enjoy the music followed by refreshments!!!

The Music Board is preparing for The Spring Pops Concert and immediately following the Concert, which is on May 19, 2024 at 4:00 PM, we are having a reception. We need help to provide various types of appetizers such as "finger" foods, small sandwiches, cheese, crackers, fruit and vegetable platters and desserts such as cookies, cakes etc. Please email me (beverly0209@cox.net). There is also a sign up sheet in the Narthex

May Nineteenth



Birthday Sunday

We celebrate everyone's Birthday AND specially Honor our 90 year old members If you would like to host a table with either a cake or cupcakes please contact Ann Marino (amarino767@icloud.com). Indicate if you want a particular month. We will supply the plates, napkins, etc.



Pentecost

Celebrating Pentecost and the birth of the Church



Commissioning

We invite all of the Board and Committee members to join us this Sunday May 19th to be commissioned! This will take place during Sunday Worship, service begins at 10AM.

GOT LUNCH FUNDRAISERS



Panera BREAD PANERA BREAD FUNDRAISER

Help support Got Lunch by purchasing food from Panera Bread Thursday, May 23, 2024 from 4:00pm - 8:00pm at the Newington location, 3120 Berlin Tpke, Newington, CT. Use code FUND4U at online checkout, in the Panera App, or at the kiosk in-café. Bring a copy of the flyer or show a digital copy to your cashier when ordering at the café. Copies are available on the back table in the Narthex. A copy of the flyer is on the back page of this Belfry.

STOP&SHOP STOP & SHOP FUNDRAISER

Mother's Day, Graduations, Recitals or even a Just Because ...flowers are always a perfect gift. Stop & Shop has once again chosen Got Lunch Newington to benefit from the Bloomin' 4 Good Non Profit Partner. During the month of May, purchase a designated bouquet of flowers for \$10.99 and Got Lunch Newington will receive a \$1.00 for each bouquet that is sold. Please stop by and purchase your bouquet at the Stop & Shop located at 1380 Berlin Turnpike, Wethersfield CT

GOT LUNCH VOLUNTEERS

Got Lunch Newington provides lunch for children who receive free or reduced lunch during the school year. Each week our volunteers pack bags with groceries for making lunch. Then we deliver them to the homes early Sunday afternoon. We will be delivering food bags each week from June 18th through August 20th. If you would like to volunteer, please sign up online at gotlunch.org or reach out to Dale Hasbrouck (dahasbrouck@comcast.net).

SPONSOR A CHILD

If you would like to donate, financial contributions are always welcome. It is estimated that \$150 will feed a child for the summer. (Please send money to the church office, marked for Got Lunch).

FOOD DRIVE

We also will be having a food drive on Saturday June 8th at 9am -1pm (and Sunday morning at worship June 9th). We will be collecting peanut butter, jelly, cans of tuna fish, cans of chicken, and mayonnaise.



CAMP HISPANIOLA UPDATE

What a generous and compassionate church family we have for Camp Hispaniola. The mission board asked for volunteers to help and 11 said yes. We asked for bakers and chili makers and we had more than enough. We offered a sound journey circle and children and adults all joined in.

Our chili cook-off winners were 1st prize winner Jean Miller, 2nd prize winner Wilma Weeden and 3rd Prize went to a last minute entry Betsy.

Your actions spread God's love from Newington to the Dominican Republic and Haiti. Together we raised \$2319 to help this years summer camp for youth that participate in Camp Hispaniola. Thank you!

CHAPEL PEWS AVAILABLE

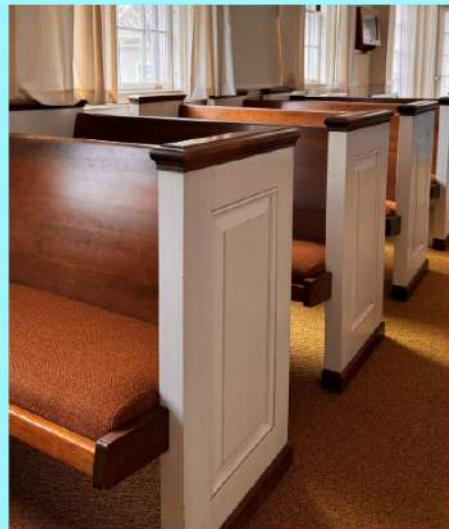
As we move toward greater community outreach the leaders of the church are strategically considering ways we can re-imagine the Chapel and create a new, exciting use of the space.

With that comes a wonderful opportunity if you have ever considered furnishing your home with a piece of Newington UCC church history.

We are offering the 12 Chapel pews to members and friends, and only ask for a goodwill donation toward the renovation costs of the Chapel space.

With your support we are excited to continue to be the hands and hearts of God.

If you are interested, please reach out to the church office or Paul Palaia Chair, Board of Trustees.



Attention Gardeners

or anyone interested in reducing solid waste while improving your yard. join us as Gregory Bugbee, head of Soil Testing at the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station, presents a lecture on Composting.

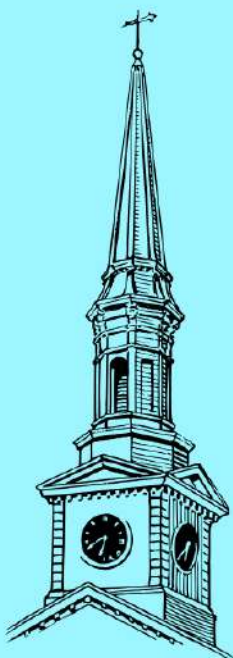
Fellowship Hall June 2nd 11:20 after worship.

Brought to you by the Green Committee



sponsor the carillon

"What a better way to celebrate a memory, birthday, anniversary or a "just because." For \$100 you can select four songs and \$50 two songs. The songs can be played during a specific month and days (ie 4 songs for 4 days or 2 songs for 2 days, all the songs on one day...). You can choose from over 2000 hymns and songs which include some contemporary music. Contact Michelle Dixon in the Church office for further details and scheduling your carillon music time."



This year's ASP team consists of 35 individuals - 19 youth and 16 adults, broken down into 6 teams. We are going to Logan County, West Virginia. We have been to Logan County before, but will be staying at a new location: Man High School in Man, West Virginia. We leave bright and early on Saturday, June 22 and will return late on June 29.

ASP (Appalachia Service Project) is a home repair mission project serving the Appalachian states. Church of Christ, Congregational in Newington, Connecticut has participated in ASP since 1992, each year we join a larger group of over 15,000 ASP volunteers that rebuild homes in desperate need of repair.

The church and participating individuals share the cost of the transportation, tools, materials, food, lodging and other associated costs involved with this mission work. The money for the trip is raised through various fundraisers throughout the year.

ASP making homes warmer, safer, and drier for Appalachian families by empowering youth and adult volunteers to take on high-impact home repairs.



ASP Tag Sale – Looking for Donations

Time to cleanup and get ready for the Appalachia Service Project (ASP) Tag Sale, June 1. If you have items that you'd like to donate they can be dropped off at Church: Tuesday, May 28 to Friday, May 31 from 6-8pm. If they are too big to drop off contact Tom Porell at 860-416-8965 and we will schedule a time to pick them up during that same week. Items we can accept are: un-upholstered furniture, small appliances, tools, household goods, sports equipment, etc. We can't accept: clothing, upholstered furniture, large appliances or television sets.

ASP Tag Sale: June 1

Appalachia Service Project (ASP). Saturday, June 1, 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

Sunday, June 2nd, is ASP Commissioning! You are welcome to join us for Morning Worship when we will send off the ASP volunteers with our prayers.