



The Chimes

April 2026 Edition

*Editor: Sherri Boldt
E-copy: Brian Hager*

From the Pastor's Desk:

"When Jesus was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him." - Luke 24:30-31

Happy Easter! The journey from Palm Sunday to Easter led us from heartbreak to hope, brokenness to redemption, isolation to loving communion. And we walked that path with Jesus.

Those who stayed by Jesus' side show us what a relationship with Jesus looks like: the more we walk with him through the valleys of shadow, the more we recognize his risen presence in our midst – even and especially in the places of our deepest woundedness and longing.

This Easter we celebrate the miracle of the empty tomb. We also see a miracle in the faithful witnesses who risked, through their love, to stay present with Jesus through it all. Their witness emboldens us to keep walking with Christ through the dark nights of our own lives, trusting that dawn will come.

In these days of the Easter season, may we carry the gifts of Holy Week forward, growing in our ability to find the risen Christ in every encounter, in every heartache, in every joy. May we be like the witnesses at the empty tomb and carry the good news of the resurrection to all that we meet.

Peace be with you! ***Sue***

(with gratitude to Scott Stoner and Robbin Brent for the Lenten devotions)

2026 REGISTRATION FORM



Keynote speaker:

REV. DR. DAVIDA FOY CRABTREE

United Congregational Church of Tolland

45 Tolland Green, Tolland, CT 06084

Saturday, April 25, 2026 – 9:30am - 2:30pm

Return form with check payable to

CTWUCC to:

Martha Lape, 20 Towpath
Lane, Cheshire, CT 06410

\$30* by April 10, 2026

or use this QR code to pay by PayPal.**

* NOTE Scholarship money is available - contact Martha Lape.

**If you are paying using PayPal, please email the information requested on this form to:
susanlindley521@yahoo.com

NAME

NOTE: *If you are completing this form for someone else, please include your contact information.*

TELEPHONE _____ (Home)

_____ (Cell)

ADDRESS: _____

ZIP: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS:

CHURCH AND TOWN:

CHECK ONE *(if necessary)*: **VEGETARIAN:** _____

GLUTEN FREE _____

If you have any questions regarding ADA accommodations, please contact Pam Roberts, at drpampt@gmail.com or 860-428-2406

Women's CONNECTION, CCNS

BROWN BAG LUNCH

Wednesday, April 15

NOON Hewitt Hall

All ladies are welcome to attend and participate

Please Join Us !

*Women's Connection, NS was formerly Women's
Fellowship)*

Thanks, Julie and Irene





There Our Hearts Will Be

Stewardship is truly about each of us and our
GENEROSITY.

“The LORD looks on the heart.” - Samuel 16:10 -13
How lovely to look with the heart.

Where is your heart, your mind, your soul?
Are you as generous as you can be? Are you
sharing your gifts of time, talent and treasure?
Are you making a difference in our church life and
congregation? As we grow in faith together as a
church family, all of us will share the gift of giving.

“Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”
- Matthew 6:21



Congregational Church of North Stonington (UCC)

Community Dinner

Spaghetti & Meatballs

with Salad and Dessert

*Donations
Gratefully
Accepted*



Vegetarian & Gluten Free
Options Available

Tuesday, 4/14/2026

Starting from 5pm to 6:30pm

* As long as food lasts

Join us for a community dinner and enjoy good food,
friendly faces, and time together.

Everyone is welcome! Bring a Friend.

89 Main Street, North Stonington, CT



860-535-0379



www.NoStoUCC.org

APRIL 22 is Earth Day

"To be changed, everything needs to change – and it has to start today." - Greta Thunberg

Here, in the USA, we have been trying to make a change since 1970, when we celebrated the first Earth Day – 56 years ago. I was there, since I knew it was happening at a nearby university and I went by to just see what it was about. It was an overwhelming crowd of college kids. I was living in South Carolina - was thirty-three years old.

I have been celebrating and making changes for 56 years. Not enough yet.

What have you done and is it enough?

This is God's world and ALL should be caring and making change happen. Hope you agree.

Let's do one small, good deed to show that we care.

Every Day is Earth Day.



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Our Mission Work: HELO Haiti

All our work for dignity and for the worth of each person is because we have experienced that dignity and worth for ourselves in some way.

All our work to be congregations representing the beauty of God's people is because we are doing God's mission work now. It is all within God's loving care, redeemed and restored by the Son who came to show us how.

This month our mission is HELO Haiti:

HELO ORPHANAGE AND SCHOOL are in les Cayes which is much calmer than much of Haiti, and for that we are grateful. Still, we must pray and support their challenges and needs:

- Food and other necessities like soap and toothpaste.
- Roads remain blocked, airspace closed, ports are under gang control, all of which makes for a severely limited stream of commerce.
- Prices that continue to skyrocket. We are grateful that we have been able to continue to provide three meals a day to our children and staff, but we cannot continue to do so without help.
- Maintaining a safe and loving environment of our children.
- Health needs for the children and their families
- Building improvements
- Weather issues that occur frequently.

Please help us pray for Haiti, for families' safety and relief from fear and hunger. **Please pray that we at HELO can continue to support an ever increasing budget resulting from inflated prices and food scarcity. Please use the green mission envelopes.**

MONTHLY MISSION PROJECTS: 2026

April – April 1st Prepare school kit delivery to Meridan, CT; We support Home, Education, Love, and Opportunity **(HELO)** Haiti. And in honor of Earth Day – A collection for Interreligious Eco-Justice Network April 26.

May - Church World Service (CWS) blanket project

June Tools of Hope project for CWS

July - Pawcatuck Neighborhood Center (PNC) Hunger and CWS Kids Fun Kits

August - Local Missions and a fair on a Sunday in August

September - Help with this month's fundraiser for Habitat for Humanity of Eastern CT (HFHECT); continue work on CWS Kids Fun Kits; hold a party for the kids

October – UCC Neighbors in Need collection

November - Jammie Grammie pajama collection with First Baptist Church; provide for the PNC Thanksgiving Baskets

December – UCC The Christmas Fund; PNC foods for Christmas



WHO'S WHO FOR 2026

Got a question? ...a concern? ...a suggestion?

If it's about worship, we hope you'll call Pastor Sue

If it's about Christian Education, please call Margaret Leonard

If it's about music, call Mike or Sherri Boldt

If it's about mission, Julie Evans

...your pledge, Steve Weicksel

... facilities, Steve Gadaree

... flowers for the altar, Monica Eppinger

...endowments, Arthur Doble

...church business in general, Gretchen Noonan

...publicity, Julie Evans

...fundraising, - Pat Danley or Julie Clow

...technology & livestream – Jamie Towle-Weicksel

If that still doesn't quite do it, call Sue or Rosemary in the office and we'll do our best to help!

COUNCIL CHAIRPERSON: Gretchen Noonan

FINANCIAL SECRETARY: Steve Weicksel

VICE-CHAIRPERSON: Julie Clow

TREASURER: Kim Gadaree

CLERK: Susan Pianka

BUDGET CHAIRPERSON: Kim Gadaree

FINANCE CHAIRPERSON: Arthur Doble

STEWARDSHIP CHAIRPERSON:

FIRE ALARM SYSTEM:

DEACONS: Kathi Thaxton, Matthew Sander, Patty Danley, Ron

Robbins, David McCord, Anne Nelson, Julie Clow, Karen Doble, Kevin Noonan

TRUSTEES John Terluk, Gretchen Noonan, Margaret Leonard, Steve Weicksel, Mark Leonard, Steve Gadaree

MISSION COMMITTEE Julie Evans, Mary Bliven, Beth Thompson, Gretchen Noonan

WHO'S WHO FOR 2026 (continued)

BOARD OF MUSIC: Sherri Boldt, Alice Robbins, Beverly Sawyer, Melissa Rockwell

BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION: Ingrid Stock, Karen Doble, Mary Bliven, Natalie Coulter

MEMORIAL GIFTS COMMITTEE: Marty Booker

CEMETERY COMMITTEE: Joe Serwinski, Kris Serwinski, Mac Turner

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE:

PASTORAL RELATIONS: Arthur Doble, Gretchen Noonan, Kim Gadaree, Julie Bliven-Clow, & Vice Chair of Deacons, David McCord

FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE: Patty Danley, Helen Evans, Natalie Coulter

DELEGATES: New London Association, UCC: Gretchen Noonan

DELEGATES: SNEUCC: Gretchen Noonan

HISTORIAN: Mobby Larson

FLOWERS: Church Office

CHOIR DIRECTORS: Senior, Bell, and Youth/Junior Choirs: Mike Noonan; Cherub Choir: Kathi Thaxton

WHO'S WHO FOR 2026 (continued)

MYSTIC AREA ECUMENICAL COUNCIL

REPRESENTATIVE: Julie Evans, Sue Latourette

PUBLICITY CO-CHAIRS: - Julie Evan, Pat Danley, Monica Eppinger

TECHNOLOGY TEAM: Brian Hager, Jamie Towle-Weicksel, Julie Bliven-Clow, Mark Leonard

VILLAGE CHIMES EMAILS AND CHURCH WEBSITE - Brian Hager

PASTOR: Susan G. Latourette

ORGANIST: Mike Noonan

SEXTON: Charlotte Melia

SECRETARY: Rosemary Kuemper

"CHIMES" Editor: Sherri Boldt

SPRING: A GREAT TIME TO COME AND VOLUNTEER

News from Habitat for Humanity of Eastern CT

Mailing Address: 377 Broad Street, New London CT 06320

Phone 860-442-7890 website: hfhect.org

Broad Street is still the mailing address, but the building is being sold and there is a temporary address; also, a new site will soon become the main building and office.

Temporary site at Chamber of Commerce in New London at 92 Eugene O'Neill Drive 06320

New site to open this spring: 1 Bailey Circle in new London. (Near Rt. 32 and Hodges Square)



FEEDING AMERICA: April 2026

***Consider a donation to Feeding America
Your impact: \$1 = 20 meals***

Across the country, neighbors are leading the way inside food banks—packing fresh food for families facing hunger. That work is made possible through a nationwide network of advocates, farmers, drivers, volunteers, and people like you, all working together to move nutritious food from farms to families.

Your donation can go right to CT Food Banks. Feeding America is a top-rated, highly efficient charity, frequently recognized as the largest U.S. nonprofit by revenue. It holds a 4-star rating from [Charity Navigator](#) for its strong financial health and accountability, with 98% of donations going to programs. It is also accredited by the [BBB Wise Giving Alliance](#) and holds a GuideStar Gold Seal.

Thanks a Heap!

Thanks to...

- The musicians for all of the wonderful music presented here.
- All who bring Sunday snacks for everyone to enjoy as we visit with our Fair Trade Coffee.
- All who support the fair trade mission by buying coffee tea and hot chocolate.
- The Coulters for their volunteer coverage of church school.
- The chief cook and dishwasher, Pastor Sue, for the wonderful corned beef and cabbage dinner; as well as all the bakers, servers and clean-up crew that participated, and our guests.
- Ben Doble for always entertaining at the community meals.
- Everyone who contributed to One Great Hour of Sharing.
- Mobby Larson for her music and for leading worship;
- All of the Girl and Boy Scouts and their families who participated in our combined Scout Sunday in March.
- John Turluk for helping with the snow removal, and all others who helped with all the snow.
- Dave Larson for his generous donation of a snowblower.

April is Volunteer Month – thanks to all who volunteer here!

Happy Easter!

The origins of Easter blend ancient religious belief, seasonal traditions, and centuries of cultural change. Today, millions of people celebrate

Easter Sunday as a Christian holiday marking the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Yet many Easter traditions also reflect older spring festivals that celebrated new life after winter. Because of this mix of influences the Easter holiday includes church services, chocolate eggs, egg hunts, and symbolic animals like the Easter bunny.

Easter is celebrated on the first Sunday following the first ecclesiastical full moon that occurs on or after the vernal equinox (fixed on March 21 in the ecclesiastical calculation). Because of this formula, in the Western (Gregorian) calculation Easter can fall on any Sunday between March 22 and April 25. Western Christians and Eastern Orthodox Christians sometimes celebrate Easter on different dates. This difference happens because Western churches and Eastern Orthodox churches use different calendar systems to calculate the holiday.

In Northern Europe, seasonal festivals honored fertility and renewal after winter. One popular theory links the word Easter to an Anglo Saxon goddess named Eostre. According to the eighth-century writer Bede the Venerable, Eosturmonath was once called after a goddess named Eostre, in whose honor feasts were celebrated in that month.

Eggs also became powerful symbols during the Easter period. In many cultures eggs represent fertility and rebirth, which fit naturally with springtime celebrations. Early Christians later adopted eggs as symbols of Christ's resurrection and new life.

The Easter bunny also developed from older folklore about an Easter hare that delivered eggs to children. By the 19th century this tradition spread widely, especially in western countries. (*Source: www.howstuffworks.com*)



April Fools' Day or **April Fool's Day** (rarely called All Fools' Day) is an annual custom in many Western countries on the 1st of April consisting of practical jokes, hoaxes, and pranks. Jokesters often expose their actions by shouting "April Fool[s]!" at the

recipient. Mass media can be involved with these pranks, which may be revealed as such the following day. The custom of setting aside a day for playing harmless pranks upon one's neighbor has been relatively common in the world historically. Although many theories have been proposed throughout the years, the origin of April Fools' Day is not exactly known.

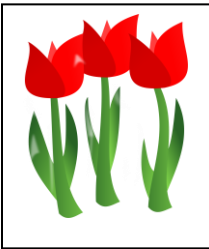
Since 1986, New York City has hosted the Annual April Fools' Day Parade, founded by artist and activist Joey Skaggs. The parade features satirical floats and performances that lampoon political figures, celebrities, and current events. Participants often dress in costumes and carry props to embody the year's most notable "fools". The event begins at Fifth Avenue and 59th Street and proceeds to Washington Square Park, where a "King (or Queen) of Fools" is crowned. The parade has become a platform for public commentary and satire, drawing attention to societal issues through humor and performance art.

Books, films, telemovies and television episodes have used April Fools' Day as their title or inspiration. Examples include Bryce Courtenay's novel *April Fool's Day* (1993). The 1990s sitcom *Roseanne* featured an episode titled "April Fools' Day". This turned out to be intentionally misleading, as the episode was instead about Tax Day in the United States, occurring on 15 April. The 19th episode of the first season of *SpongeBob SquarePants*, "Fools In April", also centers around a plot that takes place on April Fools' Day. (*Source: Wikipedia*)



April Birthdays...

- 2** Lauren Rockwell
- 4** Patricia Munzer, Christine Wagner
- 6** Jennifer Hess
- 7** Jordan Ames
- 9** Megan Byassee
- 10** Will Stevens
- 14** Abby (Murphy) Devolve
- 15** Elizabeth Lewis
- 18** Missy Thaxton, Russell Tuthill
- 19** Dick Slimak, Barbara Taylor
- 22** Betsy Alvarez, Dave Larson, Charlotte Melia
- 25** Alyssa Nilson
- 27** Helen Evans
- 29** Ken Stevens
- 30** Jessica Gray



... and Anniversaries

- 4** Peter and Jill Davis, Rob and Robin (Shabunia) Zadroga
- 8** George and Pat Danley
- 26** Russell and Nancy Tuthill

If we have missed your special day(s) or if there are corrections to be made, please notify the church office at 860-535-0379.

Worship Volunteers

	Ushers	Deacon	Altar Flowers	Lay Reader	Communion	Comments
2-Apr	TBD	TBD	NA	TBD	TBD	7 pm Maundy Thursday Service
5-Apr	Joe Serwinski Kris Serwinski	Patty Danley	Easter Flowers	Gretchen Noonan	Julie Clow Matthew Sander	Easter Sunday
12-Apr	Pat Danley Monica Eppinger	Kevin Noonan	Open Date	Open Date		Deacons Meet After Worship
19-Apr	Paul Ames Julie Clow	Dave McCord	Open Date	Open Date		
26-Apr	Joe Serwinski Kris Serwinski	Karen Dobleby	Open Date	Sherrri Boldt		Youth Choir Rehearsal After Worship



Worship Watch - April 2026 Congregational Church of North Stonington

Worship at 10 a.m. & streaming online.

Church School at 10:15 Office Hours Mon-Thurs 9 to 1.

When arriving at church during the week, please call to be let in.

5th - 6:15 am Sunrise Service; 10 am Worship with Communion. A potluck breakfast follows Sunrise Service. Senior, Youth and Cherub Choirs sing.

12th - "Moving into Joy". 1 Peter 1:3-9 and John 20:19-23. The epistle celebrates the saving power of Jesus and John shows us Jesus again and again. It's a day for the Holy humor of God! Senior Choir sings. Deacons meet.

19th - "He is Here!" Luke 24:13-35 and 1 Peter 1:13-16, 22-23. Jesus meets with two disciples on the Road to Emmaus. The letter encourages us to live new lives. We never know when we will find Jesus in our midst so we should expect him. Senior Choir and Handbell Choir.

26th - "A New Way of Being" John 10:1-10 and Acts 2:42-47. We hear of how the first followers of Jesus cared for community and the gospel shows us Jesus as the shepherd and gatekeeper. Jesus challenges the religious authorities to a greater understanding of what it means to be faithful. Senior Choir and Youth Choir sing.

MISSION FOCUS FOR APRIL: HELO Haiti – our support of Elisabeth Kennedy and HELO's work with youth is essential in the midst of the continuing conflict in Haiti. **Earth Day and Inter-Religious Eco Justice Network:** A special collection will be received on April 29th to support IREJN and our partnership with them. We welcome director Terri Eickel to worship that day.

***"As an Open and Affirming church:** We respect the worth and dignity of all persons who come into our church family regardless of race, age, marital standing, gender, economic status, mental or physical challenges, nationality or sexual identity. We promise to support one another in our personal struggles, to understand and accept differences in one another, and pray to strengthen our love and acceptance."*