



The Chimes

March 2026 Edition

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From the Pastor's Desk:

True winter weather has been a challenge for us this year, to add to the already challenging times we face. Yet there are always signs of hope. Even in the midst of blizzard conditions this week I heard the voices of juncos and a Carolina wren, stubbornly motivated to continue their existence. It's a lesson for us, even as the scriptures offer us encouragement as we continue in these days of Lent.

Psalm 32 sings of God's presence: *"You are a hiding place for me; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with glad cries of deliverance."* The psalms describe every aspect of God that humans can think of – all aspects of life. "The Lord will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life." As we approach these final weeks of Lent, we'll need all the reminders of life within and around us, for when Jesus and his disciples enter Jerusalem we know it's only a matter of time.

Even though we know "the rest of the story" it is still painful for we, too, know the pain Jesus felt. We

have all felt betrayal, loss, even physical or emotional trauma. But think of this: Jesus knows our pain as well. Jesus forged ahead knowing this earthly life could not keep him – that God was his father, his shepherd, his shield, indeed his life. The gospel of John says it best “the light was coming into the world...and the light is the light of life.”

This is the good news of Easter – life means much more than gain or possessions. It is a journey. And when we share this journey we call faith with others, it has the power of life-giving water, “springing up to eternal life.” So share these lengthening days. Invite someone to come with you to worship during Holy Week or greet the dawn on Easter morning. Then not only will you have to look for signs of new life, you will be as sign of life to others.

In Peace, *Sue*

Heads-up: Daylight Savings

***Daylight Savings ends on March 8th.
Be sure to “spring forward” one hour on
March 7th before going to bed.***



CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF
NORTH STONINGTON (UCC)

Community Dinner

*Corned Beef &
Cabbage Dinner*

with Vegetarian Option

Tuesday, 3/10/2026

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





TO LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR, KNOW YOUR NEIGHBOR



Conversations on Faith Traditions of our Neighbors

Wednesday, March 18 | 6-7:30pm

Panel Discussion hosted by the Mystic Area Ecumenical Council
at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Mystic
in partnership with
the Connecticut Council for Interreligious Understanding



This panel discussion will bring three seasoned representatives of Judaism, Hinduism, and Sikhism together with members of the community for an engaging interfaith conversation about not only our differences but what we share in common. Light refreshments will be served.

"When we understand each other more ... we hurt each other less." - CCFIU

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
1230 Flanders Road
Mystic, CT 06355
(860) 536-5100

Sponsored by the Connecticut Council for Interreligious Understanding
www.ccfiu.org



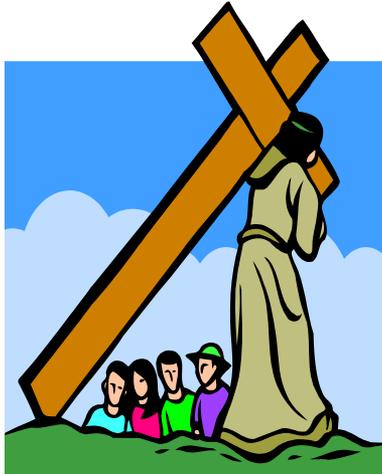
Join us for Holy Week

March 29th – Palm Sunday. 9:30 am Palm Parade on Main Street. 10 a.m. worship with the strewing of palms which leads us to the eventual passion of Jesus with a dramatic reading.

April 2nd – Maundy Thursday. 7:00 p.m. We share in the Lord's Supper, witness a foot-washing, and the last moments of Jesus' life. Service led by deacons and lay readers

April 5th – Celebration of the Resurrection.

- Sunrise Service at Edwards Winery, dawn. Gather at 6:15 a.m.
- 10 a.m. Celebration of Resurrection



"The marvelous richness of human experience would lose something of rewarding joy if there were no limitations to overcome." --Helen Keller



One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) is a vital special mission offering of the United Church of Christ. It connects you to disaster relief, refugee assistance, and development efforts around the globe. When disasters strike, or when individuals are displaced due to violence or poverty, OGHS ensures immediate response and ongoing recovery. OGHS is one of four special mission offerings of the United Church of Christ. The Global H.O.P.E. Team oversees the offering proceeds in collaboration with partners.

Through your support, OGHS funds comprehensive development programs in areas such as healthcare, education, agriculture, food security, microfinancing, and women's empowerment. By partnering with Global Ministries and international response networks, OGHS maximizes its impact. Your contributions help meet urgent needs while addressing the root causes of vulnerability, ensuring long-term, sustainable solutions for affected communities.

IT IS TIME TO SHARE!
One Great Hour of Sharing
Donate now & throughout Lent
2026 Suggested Offering Date: March

MONTHLY MISSION PROJECTS: 2026

March – United Church of Christ (UCC) One Great Hour of Sharing Collection

April – April 1st Prepare school kit delivery to Meridan, CT; a Home, Education, Love, and Opportunity (HELO) Haiti and a special presentation about the trip to HELO Haiti later in April

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



GALS GROUP
Friendship and Fun

POT LUCK LUNCH

Wednesday, March 18TH
NOON Hewitt Hall

All ladies are welcome to attend and participate

Please Join Us !

SAVE THE DATE!!!

Southern New England Women's
Connection's
Spring Gathering

SATURDAY APRIL, 25TH

MEETING AT THE UNITED CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH OF TOLLAND, CT

WE HAVE A VERY SPECIAL PROGRAM
PLANNED FEATURING
THE REV. DR. DAVIDA FOY CRABTREE



There Our Hearts Will Be

This is our new GENEROSITY THEME as we learn to develop a season of deep spiritual practice — an honest, hopeful exploration of what we give and share, and what that reveals when we choose to truly give from our hearts.

Rooted in Jesus’ teaching from Matthew 6, this theme reframes stewardship not as performance or obligation, but as the quiet, courageous work of placing everything we have in God’s care: True Generosity!



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

Think generously Speak generously Act generously

Generosity comes from hearts that are fearless and free and are willing to share abundantly all that has been given to each one of us.

For MARCH, consider a donation to:

SAFE FUTURES

safefuturesct.org

16 Jay Street

New London, CT 06320

Safe Futures Supports a very large number of victims of domestic violence every year in Southeastern CT. Their work includes victims of domestic violence, assault, stalking, trafficking, elder abuse and child abuse.

March tours: Mar 10th at 8:30 pm or Mar 26th at 4:30 pm

This year they are holding Light the Way Tours; these are especially helpful if you work with a special population, and you can learn much about their work. If interested, please email Deb Neuman at

dneuman@safefuturesct.org

March is National Nutrition Month

National Nutrition Month[®], established in 1973 and celebrated every March, is an annual education campaign by the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics focusing on making informed food choices and developing sound eating and physical activity habits. The theme for 2026 is “Discover the Power of Nutrition”, highlighting how food fuels health and daily life. Key areas of focus include:

- Mindful Eating: being conscious of food choices and portion sizes
- Culinary Skills: learning to cook, prep, and store nutritious meals
- Diverse Diets: incorporating a variety of foods, including diverse cultural, regional, and traditional ingredients
- Physical Activity: encouraging movement alongside proper nutrition

Resources can be found at <https://www.eatright.org>



The Girl Scouts' 114th Birthday is March 12th!

Juliette Gordon Low envisioned an organization that would prepare girls to meet their world with courage, confidence, and character.

In 1912, in the midst of the Progressive Era—and at a time when women in the United States couldn't yet vote—this nearly deaf 51-year-old sparked a world-wide movement which inspired girls to embrace, together, their individuality, strength, and intellect.

Born Juliette Magill Kinzie Gordon on October 31, 1860, in Savannah, Georgia, “Daisy,” as she was affectionately known, descended from a long line of strong and independent women. Her home, often referred to simply as the Birthplace, was designated a registered National Historic Landmark in 1965.

Juliette was a sensitive, curious, and adventurous girl known for her sense of humor, compassion, and concern for others. She was interested in athletics, the arts, animals, and nature—attributes that would one day become central to the Girl Scout Movement.

A meeting in 1912 with Sir Robert Baden-Powell, the founder of Boy Scouts, inspired Juliette to establish Girl Scouts that same year. Telephoning a cousin from her home, she announced, "I've got something for the girls of Savannah, and all of America, and all the world, and we're going to start it tonight!"

From that first gathering of a small troop of 18 culturally and ethnically diverse girls, Juliette broke the conventions of the time—reaching across class, cultural, and ethnic boundaries to ensure all girls, including those with so-called disabilities, had a place to grow and develop their leadership skills.

Using her innate talent for fundraising and public relations, combined with her vast network of friends and supporters, she led Girl Scouts with passion and determination—ensuring it was, and always would be, an experience that was “girl led.”

Along with Juliette, these first Girl Scouts blazed trails and redefined what was possible for themselves and for girls everywhere. They played basketball. They hiked, swam, and camped. They learned to read the world around them—for instance, by studying a foreign language and telling time by the stars. They shared a sense of curiosity and a belief that they could do anything.

But most importantly, just like Girl Scouts across the country and around the globe today, they offered a helping hand to those in need and worked together to improve their corner of the world.

That small gathering of girls Juliette Gordon Low hosted over a century ago has grown into a global movement in which all girls can see themselves reflected—and that today includes nearly 3 million Girl Scouts in 92 countries and more than 59 million alumnae, united across distance and decades by lifelong friendships, shared adventures, and the desire to do big things to make the world a better place. (Sources: www.girlscouts.org, www.gsofct.org).

Girl Scouts Celebrate at NSCC on Girl Scout Sunday: March 8th

Girls and leaders are invited to participate and wear their uniforms to church on March 8th. Girl Scout week is always observed the week of March 12th, the Girl Scouts' birthday. Boy Scouts will join us as they were "snowed out" in February

Girl Scouts and Faith Celebrating Spirituality and Faith

Everything in Girl Scouting is based on the Girl Scout Promise and Law, which include many principles and values that are common across religions. Because we understand that religious instruction is at the center of many families and communities, we invite Girl Scouts to take spiritual journeys via their faith's religious recognitions. Girl Scouts is welcoming and inclusive to members of all faiths.

See how members can connect their faith with their Girl Scouting activities. If you're a faith-based organization, learn more about how you can partner with Girl Scouts to build compassionate leaders with the values and skills to make our world a better place.



Women's Week

March 7-10, 2026

Celebrate International Women's Day; this year's theme is "Women Who Advocate for Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion"

March 8th was declared as women's day in 1945, when the Charter of the **United Nations** became the first international agreement to affirm the principle of equality between women and men. The UN celebrated its first official International Women's Day on 8 March during International Women's Year in 1975.

<https://www.internationalwomensday.com>

Celebrating women's achievements and increasing visibility while calling out inequality is key.

1. Build workplaces where women thrive.
2. Elevate visibility of women creatives.
3. Improve equality for women in tech.
4. Promote education for all women and girls.



Saint Patrick, who lived during the fifth century, is the patron saint and national apostle of Ireland. Born in Roman Britain, he was kidnapped and brought to Ireland as a slave at the age of 16. He later escaped, but returned to Ireland and was credited with bringing Christianity to its people. In the centuries following Patrick's death (believed to have been on March 17, 461), the mythology surrounding his life became ever more ingrained in the Irish culture: Perhaps the most well-known legend is that he explained the Holy Trinity (Father, Son and Holy Spirit) using the three leaves of a native Irish clover, the shamrock.

St. Patrick's Day is celebrated annually on March 17th. The Irish have observed this day as a religious holiday for over 1,000 years. On St. Patrick's Day, which falls during the Christian season of Lent, Irish families would traditionally attend church in the morning and celebrate in the afternoon. Lenten prohibitions against the consumption of meat were waived and people would dance, drink and feast—on the traditional meal of Irish bacon and cabbage.

Interestingly, the first parade held to honor St. Patrick's Day took place not in Ireland but in the United States. On March 17, 1762, Irish soldiers serving in the English military marched through New York City. Along with their music, the parade helped the soldiers reconnect with their Irish roots, as well as with fellow Irishmen serving in the English army.

In 1848, several New York Irish Aid societies decided to unite their parades to form one official New York City St. Patrick's Day Parade. Today, that parade is the world's oldest civilian parade and the largest in the United States, with over 150,000 participants. Each year, nearly 3 million people line the 1.5-mile parade route to watch the procession, which takes more than five hours. Boston, Chicago, Philadelphia and Savannah also celebrate the day with parades involving between 10,000 and 20,000 participants each. (*Source: www.history.com*)

Thanks a Heap!

Thanks to...

- All the outstanding music of the church. A special note of thanks to the ringers who volunteer on the bell choir from other churches and areas.
- Those who have shoveled or plowed snow especially during this last storm of over two feet!
- Everyone who worked on another successful Taco Tuesday supper, and to the volunteers who are donating the proceeds to the church.
- All who donated to the Pawcatuck Neighborhood Center through our pickle jar collection.
- The sponsors for our Mission Child from Church World Service.
- All who participated and led worship for Ash Wednesday.
- to all who bring goodies for our coffee hour, even without signing up!
- to Sherri Boldt for the quiet ministry of the newsletter.
- to all who have stepped in to assist with Church School and helping out the Leonards.



March Birthdays...

- 3 Cole Sawyer
Danny Booker, Robin Shabunia Zadroga, Scott Tutill**
- 4 Beth Thompson**
- 8 Shane Boissevain, Joshua Sander**
- 10 Moss Leonard**
- 12 Linda Cipriani**
- 13 Beverly Sawyer, Cora Watrous**
- 14 Kimberly Welch, Elizabeth Witter**
- 19 Joeseeph Carrigan**
- 23 Erik Nelson**
- 26 Julie Evans**
- 27 Zachary Stock**
- 28 Lucas Ricci**
- 30 Jack Gingerella**
- 31 Jamie Eppinger, Jason Wagner**



... and Anniversaries

- 3 Jason and Christine Wagner**
- 11 Sean and Kim Welch**

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
1- Mar	Patty Danley Monica Eppinger	Dave McCord	LaTourrette	Gretchen Noonan	Dave McCord Ann Nelson	Fundraising meeting after Worship
8-Mar	Paul Ames Julie Clow	Karen Doble	Open Date	Monica Eppinger		Girl Scout Sunday Deacons meeting after Worship
15-Mar	Joe Serwinski Kris Serwinski	Matt Sander	Open Date	Sherr Boldt		OGHS Donations 11:30 am Youth Choir Rehearsal
22-Mar	Steve Gadaree Matt Sander	Ron Robbins	Open Date	Open Date		
29-Mar	Gretchen Noonan Kevin Noonan	Kevin Noonan	Bliven	Open Date		Palm Sunday