



The Chimes

June 2026 Edition

Editor: Sherri Boldt

E-copy: Brian Hager

From the Pastor's Desk:

A body is made up of many parts, and each of them has its own use. That's how it is with us. There are many of us, but we each are part of the body of Christ, as well as part of one another.

Romans 12:4-5 CEV

Summer is nearly upon us. That means vacations, trips, beach, yardwork and more. No matter where we go or what we do, we are still part of a wider community that we carry with us. It also means that when some are away, others remain to carry on the work of the church - the body of Christ.

This summer, gardens will need to be watered and weeded, playground equipment and fences moved, mail picked up, bills signed for and paid and probably a laundry list of little cleaning things that will need to be done. If you have a spare hour, let us know and there will be something you can accomplish that helps our community. And if you have to work or travel or be away, know our prayers and thoughts go with you. We will be here, worshiping, praying, resting, and hopefully enjoying the longer days of summer right along with you.

There are many of us, yet all a part of one another. Thanks be to God!

Peace, *Sue*

**Is everyone ready to celebrate our
nation's 250th anniversary of
independence?**



Thanks to the Historical Society of North Stonington, we have the opportunity to be aware and prepare for this BIG EVENT.

There are many ways to become involved:

- Make and/or wear colonial garments for the whole family; A colonial sewing group is working weekly.
- Share the news of your ancestry: were any of your North Stonington ancestors veterans of the Revolutionary War? Be sure to notify the Society.
- Check out the events and activities:

June 13th - Music of the Revolution Program.

June 27th - Parade to honor the Revolutionary War Veterans, followed by a muster and a colonial fair.

Fife and drum corps will parade through the town to the Main Street Homestead and on to the fairgrounds. There will be free admission, music, reenactors, vendors, and displays. Many spots are filling up.

Come one, come all!

Graduations are happening now, and if you're having a promotion milestone, graduating from high school or college, or receiving an advanced degree, we'd like to recognize you in the July/August Chimes. Just let us know the student's name, the school, and the graduation/degree date (if applicable). You can contact the church office by phone (860-535-0379) or email (NoStoUCC@comcast.net)



Reminder!

The next Chimes edition will be a combined July and August issue. Please have items for both months submitted by the June 20th deadline.

Thank you and enjoy your summer!!



SUMMER MUSIC TIME!

Our choirs have all earned a well-deserved break for the summer, and that means it's time for our summer music program. Anyone interested in offering a gift of song during the summer months is encouraged to sign up for a Sunday. You do not have to be a choir member to participate.

Singers and instrumentalists who wish to present a song during worship should sign up on the summer music calendar located in the choir room and see Mike. Our summer music program will begin on June 14 and continue through September. Children, youth, and adults are all encouraged to sign up. If anyone knows of a musical group that might wish to participate on a Sunday, please have them contact Mike.

DO YOUR MISSION IN THE SUMMER!

June is Hunger Awareness Month at the Pawcatuck Neighborhood Center. WHY? Summer vacation from school is challenging for families that depend on school lunches. The center fills backpacks with snacks and healthy choices. Please bring food to the church or the center that will help throughout the summer months. Donations for food can be placed in the green mission of the month envelopes.

Ladies! You're all invited to

Our Annual Dine-Out LUNCH



*12:30 pm on
Wednesday, June 17th
Breakwater Restaurant in
Stonington
66 Water Street*

**Sign up in Hewitt Hall
Please carpool from the church - parking
is limited.**



There Our Hearts Will Be

This Stewardship theme for this fall's campaign for the 2027 budget year invites our congregation into a season of deep spiritual alignment—an honest, hopeful exploration rooted in Matthew 6, and in Jesus' teaching.

Our theme reframes stewardship not as performance or obligation, but as the quiet, courageous work of placing everything we have in God's care.

As we offer praise and prayer to God, the Spirit will come to lift us; we will have open minds and hearts. With joy, we will share all that we are and all that we have Christ's Way!





ARE YOU A 5 FOR 5 GIVER?

The success and sustainability of the United Church of Christ's national ministries rely on your church's contribution to basic operating support and mission.

Being 5 for 5 means that your church is a leader, providing support for the UCC and the special mission offerings:

Our Church's Wider Mission: Basic Support

One Great Hour of Sharing

Strengthen the Church

Neighbors In Need

The Christmas Fund

Be a leader, become a 5 for 5 giver today!



**STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH – UCC SPECIAL MISSION
OFFERING ON JUNE 14TH**

The UCC LIVES through our gifts to “Strengthen the Church,” a special offering each spring, and one of five special offerings of our denomination. We hope you will be especially generous with your special offering on **June 14th**.

We strengthen our UCC Church by committing to be a diverse, accessible church for all, renewing existing congregations, funding leadership for new congregations, supporting youth programs, and fostering church-wide leadership development.

Our gifts are split 50/50 by our Southern New England Conference and the Local Church Ministry of the UCC. *“Invest in the Vision”*.

MONTHLY MISSION PROJECTS: 2026

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

Church World Service ... TOOLS!

Our CWS TOOL Campaign is for JUNE and will
continue in JULY

Un -BEE-lievable!



In addition to offering tools, we will help REBUILD those in need after floods, fires, disasters, and conflicts through a program that will spread good things around the world. BEE the CHANGE!

Do what God has planned for us, giving where we can do the most good.

Historical note by Julie Evans: When I was a teenager at my UCC church in Pennsylvania, about 60 years ago, my uncle, Rev. Ken Bishop, and his family served in Germany for 2 years with Church World Service. Their mission was bringing BEES and teaching farmers how to BEE THE CHANGE!

"God satisfies the thirsty and fills the hungry with good things." *Psalm 107:9*

The Longest Day® #TheLongestDay #ENDALZ

Alzheimer's Association shares awareness on the "LONGEST DAY." That is important to families caring for an Alzheimer's patient, because as the daytime grows longer, there is more work to do, and the caregivers need their rest.

Join to fight the darkness of Alzheimer's and all other dementias through a fundraising activity.

You can reach out to other communities or create an activity of your choice on a day that works for you. Popular activities are golf, pickleball, baking, and more. Or how about a family bowling day?

Make a Difference for Alzheimer's Association of CT

AACT
200 Executive Blvd S. #4b
Southington, CT 06489



Why not consider a Donation to Safe Futures?

Stopping abuse, Restoring Hope, Saving Lives

Safe Futures is the New London, CT area facility for domestic abuse victims; it used to be known as the Women's Shelter. When they changed their name, they had developed many special programs, including educational programs, children's programs and services, fathers' programs, and comprehensive services, as well as a shelter for women. They have an office in New London and a shelter in an undisclosed area to protect victims.

They now have plans to build and move to Waterford. We support them with an annual donation and deliver their calendars, which help the women keep track of their meetings, medical appointments, and counseling sessions.

Just last month, the Chamber of Commerce of Eastern Connecticut announced Katherine G. Verano, Chief Executive Officer of Safe Futures and a Waterford, CT, resident, as its 75th Citizen of the Year, recognizing her lasting impact on survivor advocacy, public safety systems, and community collaboration throughout Eastern Connecticut.

Safe Futures has a donation program for like-new items to be dropped off on Tuesdays or Thursdays at 16 Jay Street in New London. Seasonal clothes are accepted.

June is Leave a Legacy Month

IMAGINE YOU'RE GIVING AFTER YOU HAVE PASSED!

What could be more powerful than giving after you have passed? It is possible to leave something to the church or to a favorite charity ... think about it.

Planned Giving - a plan to leave something, which can include your family as well. The power of planned gifts lies in their growth over time. Please think about our church and what you can do for our future. Consider giving through a charitable trust or a permanent memorial.

Including the Church in Your Will:

You can remember your church by planning a basic will that provides for your heirs. An additional charitable bequest can help make an impact on the future of our church and the church community. Your attorney can help you with the plan that is right for you.

Reminder:

Another Way to Remember the Church:

You can make charitable gifts right now from your IRA account. If you are 70 & ½ or older, a US law (Pension Protection Act of 2006) allows you to make tax-free gifts to the organization of your choosing from your Individual Retirement Account.

It's a good thing! So, it's time to review your estate plan.
Thank you.

Thanks a Heap!

Thanks to...

- Michael Noonan for his direction and musical prowess; we missed him while he was out.
- All the workers and bakers for the May seedling sale, and the pie makers, too.
- Everyone who worked at the German dinner and attended, especially the dishwashers!
- Julie Clow, as deacon-hostess for the new members' honor.
- Our new members: Jay and JJ Macko, Terry, Kara and Samuel Holton, and Janice Rubin.
- Dennis and Mary Bliven for cleaning up the play yard and all the toys.
- Everyone who came to celebrate Pentecost on May 24.
- Those who made special donations for IREJN – Interreligious Eco-Justice Network.
- Everyone who gave special donations to HELO Haiti.
- All who contributed to CWS Blankets.
- Every worship volunteer and all those who provide refreshments on Sundays.
- Margaret Leonard and Mary Bliven for a sharing time with children and everyone holding the baby ducks.

Thanks a Heap! (continued)

-Pie Ladies and CE for the pie making and the bake sale preparations.

-All who helped with pie baking for the Memorial Day parade, even though it was canceled due to the weather.

-Everyone who visited the gravesides for our seven pastors buried in North Stonington.

-The Gadarees, who are both very helpful all the time: Steve got the flowers for the Church Memorials, and Kim went out of her way to help pay online for a Church World Service order.

-Those who care for the shrubs and gardens and mow the lawn.

-Michael Noonan for hosting the special meeting of AGO.

-The mission committee, along with Rosemary Kuemper's help and Kim Gardaree's help, for the completion of the Church World Service Period Packs.

-Our Youth Choir for their beautiful music during the year.

-Congratulations to Violet Weicksel and Madeleine Leonard for their recognition of five years of dedication and service to the Youth Choir.

Thanks a Heap! (continued)

-Our Senior Choir for their weekly dedication and beautiful music throughout the choir season.

-The Handbell Choir for their beautiful music throughout the year, and to our ringing friends Sue Prince and Robin Crandall, who have filled in as substitutes.



When is the summer solstice? This year, the summer solstice will occur on Sunday, June 21st. It will mark the longest day of the year in the Northern Hemisphere. On that day, the sun rises in perfect alignment with the Heel Stone and Altar Stone of Stonehenge's 5000-year-old circle. This alignment shows the ancient builders' understanding of the solar calendar and suggests Stonehenge may have served as a calendar or temple for important dates and events - a tradition that continues to be marked each year.

There will be a public gathering at Stonehenge in Wiltshire in the U.K. from the evening of June 20 (sunset at 9:26 p.m. BST) until after sunrise on June 21 (4:52 a.m. BST). It will be live-streamed on YouTube by English Heritage.



Although the exact instant of the solstice is difficult to notice without astronomical measurements, the sun's changing path across the sky provides visible clues. Throughout the year, the points where the sun rises and sets shift gradually along the horizon. On the June solstice, the sun rises at its most northeasterly point and sets at its most northwesterly point. Stonehenge is aligned with that most northeasterly sunrise of the year, which is why it hosts one of the world's most famous solstice celebrations. On the June solstice, the sun also reaches its highest position in the sky at local noon.

Source: <http://news/science/articles/summer-solstice-longest-day-means>

June Birthdays...

- 1 Ryan Boissevain**
- 2 Rosemary Kuemper, Melissa Thaxton**
- 3 TJ Thompson**
- 8 Linda Murphy**
- 10 Benjamin Doble, Nancy Tuthill**
- 13 Lee Ireland**
- 15 Maya Bhat-Evans**
- 19 Susan Ames, Stella Thompson**
- 20 Morgan Husk, Julia Watrous, Benny Young**
- 21 Nadeane Mayhew, Madison Wagner**
- 22 Carrie-Jean Tuthill**
- 27 Kevin Ames**
- 28 Lindsey Bliven**
- 30 Brad Ricci**



... and Anniversaries

- 2 Jim & Cinda Spavins, Dennis & Barbara Taylor**
- 4 Mike & Deb Husk**
- 5 David & Susan Pianka**
- 13 Richard & Julie Evans**
- Joe & Missy (Thaxton) Carrigan,**
- 18 Ryan & Debra Coats**
- Bob & Ellen Boissevain, Michael & Gretchen Noonan**
- 22 Peter & Kathy (Kimball) Tredwell**
- 26 Ron & Alice Robbins**
- 27**

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 |
|---------|---------------------------------|--------------|----------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|--|
| 7-June | Gretchen Noonan Kevin Noonan | | Noonan | Gretchen Noonan | Patty Danley Kathi Thaxton | |
| 14-June | Paul Ames Julie Clow | Kevin Noonan | Open Date | Open Date | | <i>Deacons' meeting after Worship Strengthen the Church Summer Music Begins Father's Day First Day of Summer</i> |
| 21-June | Joe Serwinski Kris Serwinski | Karen Doble | Boldt | Open Date | | |
| 28 June | Patty Danley Monica Eppinger | Anne Nelson | Open Date | Open Date | | |

Worship Watch - June 2026 **June**
Congregational Church of North Stonington
Worship at 10 a.m. & streaming online.
Church School at 10:15 Office Hours Mon-Thurs 9 to 1.

7th - CE Sunday With Communion. Our young people lead worship and share the message. Sing and share with us!
Senior Choir and Youth Choir sing—deacons' **meeting after worship.**

14th - "Hope". Genesis 18:1-15 and Romans 5:1-8. Rev. Dr. Mobby Larson leads worship today!
Summer Music series begins. **Strengthen the Church offering collected.**

21st - "New Life." Ruth 4:1-22 and Luke 1:46-55. Looking at the life of Ruth, and this moment in time, the gospel brings us Mary's Song. Two women in patriarchal times...yet they find reasons to rejoice.
Summer Music series. **First day of summer.**

28th - "In Jeopardy" Esther 4:1-17 and Luke 9:23-25. The chapter from Esther places us in the midst of a fraught situation and leaves us with a cliffhanger: will Esther lose her life when she seeks the king's counsel? Jesus' words echo the sacrifice she is willing to make.
Summer Music series.

MISSION FOCUS FOR JUNE: Church World Service - Tools. – Your donation of tools also benefits Fathers! You receive a Father's Day Card to honor and celebrate the father figure in your life. Every donation provides tools for rebuilding communities in hardship or after disasters.

"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 status, gender identity, economic status, mental or physical challenges, nationality, or sexual orientation. We promise to support one another in our personal struggles, to understand and accept differences in one another, and to pray to strengthen our love and acceptance."