



The Village Chimes
**THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

P.O. BOX 66

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Michael G. Noonan, Director of Music

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TIME DATED MATERIAL



The Chimes

September 2026 Edition

Editor: Sherri Boldt

E-copy: Brian Hager

From the Pastor's Desk:

*Remember your word to your servant, in which you
have made me hope.*

*This is my comfort in my distress, that your promise
gives me life.*

-Psalm 119:49-50 NRSVUE

In the blink of an eye, a child's life was lost this week in a tragic accident. We are all affected by the loss. And our first instinct here at the church was to open our doors and our arms to each other in support and in shared grief.

At first, I wondered, "how, why, what?!" It's a very human response to something that makes no sense. We want to parse it out, take stock, and figure out all the angles. But in this instance, we cannot. We cannot make sense of sudden death. We can only react. In the days ahead, we will be alternately afraid, angry, sad, and everything in between.

In all of this, the church is here. You can come into a place of sanctuary and cry out to God, or yell or shake fists. God's shoulders are broad enough to handle it. This sort of thing shakes our faith and also draws a compassionate response from us – to reach out, to offer help, or simply to hold one another. We know from that psalmist that we are held, that God offers comfort in our distress, and that in the days ahead we will be able to hold onto life.

In the days ahead, if you or your child needs to meet with me, talk, or ask questions, I will make myself available. Other church members and staff are here to provide support as well. In the meantime, hold each other close. **Peace, Sue**

You're Invited to Attend
the Church School

GARDEN PARTY

SUNDAY, 9/13/26

After Church Service



**CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF NORTH
STONINGTON (UCC)**

89 Main Street, North Stonington, CT 06359

Congregational Church of North Stonington (UCC)

Community Dinner



Taco Tuesday

*Donations
Gratefully
Accepted*

Beef with Vegetarian Option

Join us for a community dinner and enjoy good food,
friendly faces, and time together.
Everyone is welcome! Bring a Friend.

Tuesday, 9/15/2026

Starting from 5pm to 6:30pm

** As long as food lasts*

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, September 16 | 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 Islam, Hinduism, and Unitarianism 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

CHOIR SEASON TO BEGIN - Come Join the Choir!

It's choir season! You're invited to come join a choir and be a part of our vibrant music ministry. Our choirs sing and ring to God's glory. All are invited to be part of the music ministry.

Our choirs sing and ring a wide range of musical styles from baroque and classical to gospel and contemporary, all proclaiming the word of God. Your time and talents are always welcome.

If you are interested in joining one of the choirs, then we invite you to come and be a part of the music ministry and offer your gift of music to the glory of God.

Senior Choir – Our Senior Choir is open to adults who love to sing. We sing sacred music of all styles, with something for everyone. We rehearse weekly on **Thursdays from 6:00 - 7:00 pm in the Choir Room** and sing weekly during worship from September to June. We also sing at special services throughout the year. So come on down to the choir room **beginning Thursday, September 10th**. You may join us at any time of the year.

Youth Choir – Our Youth Choir combines young people ages 7 through high school age. This choir sings once per month during worship from September to June and rehearses on selected **THURSDAYS from 5:00-5:40 pm. in the Choir Room.** NOTE: We will also be rehearsing on selected Sundays from 11:30 -12:10 pm. Youth Choir will begin on Thursday, September 24th.

We have had a history of wonderful singers who have participated in many singing opportunities. God has truly blessed these young voices, and we invite more children and youth to join this great choir. Choristers learn the basics of music reading, vocal

production, and sing a variety of musical styles, all proclaiming God's word.

Sign up at church for Youth Choir in September anytime or contact Mr. Noonan.

Cherub Choir - Our little cherubs ages 3 and up (along with our Youth Choir Scholars) make wonderful music two times per year, singing at the Sunday morning service, before the Christmas Eve service (December 20th this year at the 10:00 a.m. service), as well as at the Easter Sunday service (March 28th, 2027). This choir is directed by Mrs. Thaxton and Mr. Noonan. Mrs. Thaxton will practice with the Cherub Choir, and parents too, after church on the three Sundays before they sing in worship. Just watch future issues of the CHIMES or check the bulletin for information as the dates get closer.

Handbell Choir - Our Handbell Choir, *The Village Ringers*, is an adult ringing group who have a great time making beautiful handbell music. This choir rings monthly at worship from September to May and rehearses each **Thursday from 7:15-8:30 PM in the Choir Room. We will begin on September 10th.**

We do not have any openings at this time, but if you would like to be a substitute ringer, please contact Mike. Ringing experience is required. We ring at an intermediate level, and music reading is required.

Please consider being part of the church's music ministry and join a choir. Membership is always open. Just contact Mike anytime throughout the year or stop by a rehearsal to listen. You are always welcome!

"Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth." – Psalm 100:1

HABITAT for HUMANITY of Eastern CT: **OUR SEPTEMBER MISSION FOCUS.**

Visit our new home office:

1 Bailey Circle

New London, CT 06320

860-442-7890

Habitat for Humanity of Eastern Connecticut is our local affiliate of Habitat for Humanity, a nonprofit organization whose mission is to ensure that everyone has a safe and decent place to live. In partnership with our volunteers, we build stability and self-reliance through shelter, providing families with the opportunity for a better life and better communities.

COME WORK WITH US SEPTEMBER 25TH!! Sign up at
HabitatECT.org under Volunteer

Habitat for Humanity's homeownership program :

Families and individuals in need of decent, affordable housing apply for homeownership with their local Habitat for Humanity.

Each local Habitat's family selection committee selects homeowners based on three criteria:

- The applicant's level of need.
- Their willingness to partner with Habitat.
- Their ability to repay a mortgage through an affordable payment plan.

As part of their willingness to partner, Habitat's homebuyers invest hundreds of hours of their own labor, called sweat equity, working alongside volunteers and other Habitat homeowners

Be a Volunteer!





Stewardship Generosity Theme:



So, your heart is in you, love is around you, and it reaches many others whom you love. It also stretches out to God as you do good works and share your treasures.

YOU MIGHT ASK HOW I CAN DO ALL OF THAT?

In a favorite hymn, I have learned the words as we sing praise to God:

“Be thou my vision O Lord of my heart,” and “Thou and thou only, First in my heart ... My treasure thou art!”

This is so sweet, and it lifts my spirit and guides my heart.

Join all of us here as we respond to this program of giving to the church and to our ministries serving God.

Join us for the Blessing of the Animals

Sunday, 10/4/2026

*on the church steps at approximately 11:15am
following 10am service*



Congregational Church of North Stonington (UCC)

89 Main Street, North Stonington, CT 06359

CALL FOR CHURCH MEETING

Notice is hereby given to all members of the Congregational Church of North Stonington, UCC, of a meeting to take place on **Sunday, October 18, 2026**, following worship.

The purpose of the meeting is to:

-Hear and act on the Church Council's proposed FY2027 budget, for planning and stewardship campaign purposes. The final FY2027 Budget will be voted on during the Church's Annual Meeting held in January 2027.

-Act on other said business to come before the congregation.

People may attend in person at church or via Zoom. A link will be posted on our website and emailed in the October Preview.

MONTHLY MISSION PROJECTS: 2026-2027

September - Habitat for Humanity of Eastern CT – Please Help with this month's fundraiser for HFHECT

Continue Work on KIDS FUN Kits

October - UCC Neighbors in Need collection.

FALL (Month of November) - Jammie Grammie PJ collection with First Baptist Church.

November - Provide for the PNC Thanksgiving Baskets

December - UCC The Christmas Fund/PNC foods for Christmas

April 1st - Prepare school kit delivery to Meridan, CT

April - HELO Haiti

May - Church World Service (CWS) Blanket project

June - Tools of Hope project for CWS & Hunger Awareness at PNC

July and August - PNC Hunger & CWS, KIDS FUN KITS



CWS KIDS KIT

This is our new list – formerly School Kits

Here is what we need to complet 50 kits!

- box of 12 colored pencils
- 2-pocket folders
- glue sticks
- 12"/30cm rulers /– plastic
- pencil holders/ containers

Presently, YOU can get special prices for these items, which are being collected for Church World Service. These kits used to be called School kits, but the new list is now the Fun Kids Kit. Have fun donating to this cause.

Thanks for your help.

Thanks a Heap!

Thanks to...

-All of the summer musicians.

-Rev. Mobby Larson for cheerfully serving as our substitute minister whenever needed.

-Paul Ames for being our mower on a regular basis every year, and for his expertise as an electrician and usher. Paul has always been a faithful volunteer.

-Our many volunteers who help with maintenance and upkeep. Kevin Noonan for help with the gutters.

-Our new mowers, Dennis and Mary Jane Bliven.

-Anne Nelson, who served 2 years working in the gardens, and now, we have Dennis and Mary Bliven, Michael and Gretchen Noonan, Terry and Kara Holton.

-Margaret Leonard, the CE staff, and the children who worked together in the summer garden every week.

-All who have generously donated to the PNC summer food drive and backpack program, as well as the kids' fun kit supplies.

-Those who have assisted with special events and receptions at the Hewett Hall.

-All of the committees that continued to meet through the summer.

-The cemetery committee for ongoing care and upkeep.

-The pie people who have worked together all summer and the crews who help at the markets.

September Birthdays...

1	Melissa Rockwell
4	Austin Gray, Donna Pelish
5	Sean Boldt, Charles Gray
10	Charlotte Rose Aitken
14	Christopher McCord, Emma Stock
16	Debbie Janda
18	Bryan Kimball
19	Bryan Hall
22	Julie Clow, Matthew Sander
23	Cinda Spavins
25	Irene Donald
30	Kristine Halleck



... and Anniversaries

1	Ben & Michelle Young
2	Steve & Kim Gadaree
9	Brian & Denise Hager
12	Art & Julie Armstrong
28	Charles & Linda Gray

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
6-Sep	Gretchen Noonan Kevin Noonan	Julie Clow	Boldt	Gretchen Noonan	Karen Doble Ron Robbins	
13-Sep	Joe Serwinski Kris Serwinski	Patty Danley	Open Date	Dave McCord		Church School Garden Party After Worship
20-Sep	Steve Gadaree Matthew Sander	Dave McCord	Bliven	Sherri Boldt		
27-Sep	Julie Clow	Kevin Noonan	Open Date	Open Date		Youth Choir Rehearsal After Worship

September 2026



Worship Watch

Congregational Church of North Stonington

Worship at 10 a.m. & streaming online.
Church School at 10:15 Office Hours Mon-Thurs 9 to 1.

6th - Communion Sunday – “Burning Questions”

Exodus 12:1-14 and Matthew 18:15-20. Moses wonders why a burning bush is talking to him; Jesus is questioned by his disciples. Beverly Sawyer, soloist.

13th - “Grace and Mercy” Exodus 14:19-31 and Matthew 18:21-35.

The Hebrews are led out of Egypt by an angel of the Lord; Jesus tells the parable of the unforgiving servant.

CE Garden Party after worship – all welcome. Senior Choir returns to sing.

15th - Taco Tuesday, 5 to 6:30 pm - all welcome!

20th - “God Meets Our Needs” Exodus 16:2-15 and Psalm 106. The people are hungry in the wilderness and crying out for food. Sep 20 is called “Just Peace Sunday” Senior Choir sings, and the Handbell Choir rings.

27th - “What Proof is Needed?” Exodus 17:1-7 and Matthew 21:23-32.

The wandering Hebrews argue with Moses and demand water. Jesus’ authority is questioned; his story gives the answer and shows how accessible God is. Senior Choir sings.

MISSION FOCUS FOR September: Eastern CT Habitat for Humanity. We are covenant partners with ECHfH offering our time and talents on workdays, volunteering to help with dedications and bringing snacks to workers, and our financial support. As we begin work on our Second Habitat House in North Stonington, our support is very welcome.

***“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 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 pray to strengthen our love and acceptance.”*