



## **The Chimes**

January 2026 Edition

Editor: Sherri Boldt

E-copy: Brian Hager

### **From the Pastor's Desk:**

*"They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. . . All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need."- Acts 2:42, 44-45*

Blessings to you for the New Year and peace be with you. I hope you were able to find moments of quiet and peace over the Christmas holidays. Right now the moon is shining bright at night and days are slowly growing longer. It reminds us that there is always light to shine in the darkness. It's a promise that even in the midst of chaos, the peace of Christ can reign within. This is a thought to hold onto as we step into the unknown of another new year accompanied by the uncertainty brought about by rising costs as well as global and local challenges.

All this calls us to remember to live faithfully...and faith calls us out of ourselves to serve one another. The Acts of the Apostles stand as an example: gathering this Sunday sharing in the breaking of the bread and in prayer; sharing what we have in common so others do not have to go without; and serving the community.

One way we are reaching out is with a **Taco Tuesday community dinner on January 13<sup>th</sup>** from 5 to 7 (as long as the food lasts!). The idea was initiated by one of our church folk looking for a way to be involved and to reach out to our neighbors. So come, eat, talk and be a part.

Another way to be a part is to help out with one of our **Habitat workdays**. I'm told we will be building two more houses in North Stonington! Meanwhile we can go up the road to Norwich and assist in the new build there. Opportunities on the weekend or a weekday are available.

No matter what uncertainty the new year brings, we always have the gift of Christ's peace to carry us...and when we come together, that peace is shared and grows.

*In Christ, Sue*



***Explorer's Class*** Have Questions? Want to more about NoSto UCC? Join us after worship on January 18<sup>th</sup> to learn more, including what it means to be a member.

***The Christmas Fund Collection—***  
***a special offering of the UCC—will continue into January.***

***Grace Upon Grace***

For more than a century, annual donations to the Christmas Fund have supported United Church of Christ clergy and lay employees. Advocates of the fund are asking for gifts to help that continue for another 100 years.

“Most Americans live paycheck to paycheck; UCC clergy and lay staff are no exception,” said the Rev. Paul Ramsey, philanthropy officer for the Pension Boards, which manages the Christmas Fund. “Those who donate are providing a nest egg for future generations to support those who have answered the call.”

Please use the purple envelopes provided or make your check payable to CCNS and mark the memo for The Christmas Fund or Vets of the Cross.

---

**CALL FOR ANNUAL MEETING  
OF  
*THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF  
NORTH STONINGTON***

Notice is hereby given to the members of the North Stonington Congregational Church of the annual meeting to be held on **Sunday, January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2026** following church services. It will be a hybrid meeting (in-person and via Zoom).

The purpose of the meeting will be to:

1. Act upon the reports of officers and committees of the church;
2. Hear and act upon the report of the budget committee;
3. Hear and act upon the report of the nominating

- committee;
4. Transact any other business proper to come before said meeting.

Congregational Church of North Stonington (UCC)

## *Community Dinner*



# Taco Tuesday

**Beef with Vegetarian Option**

*Donations  
Gratefully  
Accepted*

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

**Tuesday, 1/13/2026**

**Starting from 5pm to 7pm**

\* As long as food lasts

89 Main Street,  
North Stonington, CT



860-535-0379



[www.NoStoUCC.org](http://www.NoStoUCC.org)



---

### ***It's that time of Year again***

*Giving and Pledging and YOU: There is still time to pledge, NOW!*

---

It's a time to show your thankfulness for all that you have; actually, much more than you think!

- BUILDING & RENEWING FAITH
- SHARING OUT OF OUR ABUNDANCE
- OUR RELATIONSHIP TO GOD and OTHERS
- CARING FOR OUR CHURCH FACILITY
- THE PROMISE OF A FUTURE FOR OUR MINISTRIES

As the faithful, we give because we want to do our part and that is giving whatever we can. Some more – some less.

We have also learned that by making an annual “faith pledge” every year, we are staying connected to God, to our church family and to the responsibilities we have to care for this place.

Following the way of Jesus, we share and care; in return for choosing the way of truth and life, we grow our faith and strengthen the promise of a future for our church. By becoming a strong partner in ministry, we will join in celebration and renewed faith.

Please respond to the pledge program by sending in your pledge for 2026. Thank you all. From all of those who have already pledged!

**Faith & Giving!**  
**Report on the Stewardship Program**  
**12-22-22**

***General Fund Pledges \$ 70,000 from 27 units***

God made us to be Generous in Spirit – Giving out of our abundance! Won't you please call, write, or email your promise form?

Our goal is \$134,000! We can answer and give advice if you must change your former pledge; just ask Pastor Sue or Julie Evans.

Congregational Church of North Stonington UCC  
P.O. Box 66, North Stonington CT 06359

Thank you, Coordinator Julie Evans, 860-889-1636  
or [evansjulia889@gmail.com](mailto:evansjulia889@gmail.com)



**Our Habitat for Humanity of Eastern CT needs you in many ways: an opportunity for a New Year's Resolution.**

- Builders with projects in North Stonington and Ledyard
- Volunteers for refreshments at Build days
- Volunteers for devotions at Build Days
- Committee members for our Genesis Faith Engagement Committee
- Volunteers to assist new homeowners in preparation for their home
- Movers – YES! Our office will move in the summer of 2026

Phone is 860-442-7890

Mailing address for checks:

377 Broad St. New London, CT 06320

Email for info: [hfhect.org](http://hfhect.org) and click on volunteer up





## **Mission Program for January**

Our World Vision Vision Child is now 6 years old and enjoying our correspondence and our donations to her, her family, and her community.

Eshile Lushaba is a sweet little girl in Maseyisini Eewatini in Africa. Every year we need 12 sponsors, one for each month plus special events.

### **ESHILE Lushaba: Our Mission Child thru World Vision**

She cares about community and learning about people working together. She likes her neighbors and the trees in her village. She enjoys the oranges and pineapples that grow there. She can swing and skip rope, also.

**Eshile** lives in Maseyisini Eewatini in Africa. Her family struggles to provide for her; her father is a taxi driver and her mother has a shop she keeps.

**For 2026**, we have some of the monthly sponsors, but we need **more to sign up**, and some contributions for special causes and events:

### **OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS NEEDED FOR OUR MISSION CHILD:**

- ***Birthday – July 13 – She will be seven!***
- ***School***
- ***Warmth***
- ***Health***
- ***Christmas***
- ***Calendar***

The support and interest we show goes a long way to improving the lives of these children and their communities. Please sign up in Hewitt Hall this month.

Julie Evans     860-889-1636   cell 860-886-3104  
[evansjulia889@gmail.com](mailto:evansjulia889@gmail.com)

## **MONTHLY MISSION PROJECTS: 2026**

**January** – World Vision Hope Child, PROMOTION & Sign Ups  
(for monthly donations & special gifts)

**February** – Pawcatuck Neighborhood Center (PNC) Fuel Fund

**March** - UCC One Great Hour collection UCC  
Prepare school Kit delivery to Meridan, CT

**April “Cause Contest:” Pick One – Simply Smiles, HELO  
Haiti or  
UCC Global Disaster Relief and have a speaker**

**May** Church World Service (CWS) Blanket project

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

**July & August** - PNC Hunger & Start CWS, SCHOOL KITS

**September** - Habitat for Humanity of Eastern CT  
Continue Work on School Kits

**October** - UCC Neighbors in Need collection.

**FALL** ( Oct. 1 – ~ Nov. 22) - Jammie Grammie PJ collection  
with First Baptist Church.

November Provide for the PNC Thanksgiving Baskets

**December** UCC The Christmas Fund

PNC foods for Christmas

## *Thanks a Heap!*

### Thanks to...

-All who have made pledges and donations to our stewardship program, “Dreaming with our God.”

-The children and youth of the church for all their participation and Church school activities.

-Margaret Leonard, Mary Bliven and Natalie Coulter. for leading the children and providing many enrichment activities.

-Mike and all of our choirs for the wonderful music during the Advent and Christmas seasons.

-Alice Robbins and Renee Celey for the beautiful solos and to flutist, Michelle Macina for her gift of music, at our Christmas Eve services.

-The Music Committee, choirs, and Gretchen Noonan, for all of the fabulous food at the receptions for the Stonington Madrigal Singers concert we hosted on December 14.

-Kathi Thaxton and Mike Noonan for leading our Cherub Choir with practices and their singing at the December 21 worship service.

-Steve Gadaree for the handbell solo on December 28.

-The pie ladies for their tireless efforts in the kitchen throughout the year, and all the donations they bring in for church.

-The cemetery committee for instituting the “Wreaths Across America” Program at our cemetery.

-Mike and Kevin Noonan for clearing walkways after the snow.

-Our deacons, ushers, and lay readers for our Christmas services

## *Thanks a Heap! (continued)*

- All who donated to the Christmas Fund (Veterans of the Church).
- Everyone who donated food for PNC.
- People who donated pajamas for needy children as was started by Jammy Grammie.
- Ladies of the Women's Fellowship for donating cash to PNC for mothers who need help providing gifts for their children (\$145).
- All the men, women, and children who helped with the Bazaar and/or supported the Bazaar; it was an enjoyable event that allowed Women's Fellowship to provide a larger donation to the church.
- Our outstanding staff and regular volunteers, all who set great examples of faith and caring.

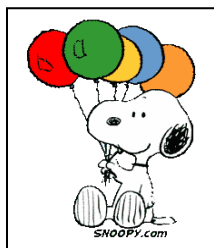
---

From your Chimes Editor: Thank you all for your contributions to and help with the Chimes in 2025. Here's looking forward to another year of putting together the Chimes! Best wishes, Sherri Boldt ☺



## **January Birthdays...**

- 1**      **Rev. Sue Latourette**
- 3**      **Jimmy Spavins**
- 4**      **David Lewis**
- 7**      **Sherri Boldt**
- 8**      **Quinn Burnside, Sonia Marie Perez**
- 17**     **Jane (Janda) Rathbun**
- 21**     **Agnes Terrill**
- 22**     **Chelsea Hauck**
- 24**     **Marlon Pucella-Loutrel**
- 27**     **Kathleen Bond, Alice Sophia Watrous**
- 29**     **Ruby Teresa Alvarez, Nancy Bulkley**
- 31**     **Kris Serwinski**



## **... and Anniversaries**

- 14**      **Miguel and Julie Perez**
- 22**      **Daniel and Martha Booker**

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
4-Jan	Gretchen Noonan Kevin Noonan	Ron Robbins	<b>Open Date</b>	Evelyn Bamford	Evelyn Bamford Matthew Sander	<b>Annual Reports Due</b>
11-Jan	Joe Serwinski Kris Serwinski	Elizabeth Witter	<b>Open Date</b>	<b>Open Date</b>		
18-Jan	Paul Ames Julie Clow	Anne Nelson	<b>Open Date</b>	<b>Open Date</b>		
25-Jan	Patty Danley Monica Eppinger	Patty Danley	<b>Open Date</b>	<b>Open Date</b>		<b>Annual Meeting</b>



**Worship Watch January 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.

**4<sup>th</sup> - -Communion— “A World of Possibilities”**

**Sirach 24:1-12** and **John 1:10-18** The book of Wisdom explains how we gain wisdom – and gives us the ability to face all things.  
Senior Choir sings. **Annual Reports due to Julie Clow**

**11<sup>th</sup> - “We are Who He Was”. Acts 10:34-43** and **Matthew 3:13-17** Jesus is baptized. Peter testifies to all he knows about who Jesus is...and who we are.  
Senior Choir sings, Deacons meet.

**18<sup>th</sup> - “It Starts with Jesus”. Psalm 40** and **John 1:29-42**  
The psalmist sings of a God who steps in to save. John gives us a different version of the calling of the first disciples.  
Sr. Choir, Handbell Choir  
Explorer’s Class after worship.

**25<sup>th</sup> - “Getting the Word Out”. Isaiah 9:1-4** and **Matthew 4:12-23**. The prophet speaks of overcoming oppressors and Jesus begins his preaching and teaching ministry.  
Senior Choir and Youth Choir sing  
11:30 am CCNS Annual Meeting