



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

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TIME DATED MATERIAL



The Chimes

October 2026 Edition

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From the Pastor's Desk:

*Let love be genuine; hate what is evil;
hold fast to what is good;
love one another with mutual affection;
outdo one another in showing honor. Romans 12:9-10*

Last month, our congregation came together around a huge loss in our town, opening our doors, providing space to talk, and being here for one another. Though we didn't announce it, donations that came in on Taco Tuesday were donated to the O'Grady family and bus driver Wendell Thomas. It is exactly this sort of thing that builds community.

I am grateful to everyone who reached out then and who continue to find ways to take care of one another. On Sunday, October 4, we offered a Blessing of the Animals; another way we reach out by recognizing that our companion animals are as much a part of our families as humans are.

Join us for the Oktoberfest meal on October 13th, which will include wurst, Wienerschnitzel, sauerkraut, red cabbage, and more – with vegetarian options of course! Our confirmation class has begun, and our young people help with dinners and are looking to pair up with church members when they are serving as volunteers. If you usher, or serve communion, or help with tech, or make pies, and so many other little tasks, invite one of our youth to come along.

In all we do, let us follow Paul's advice to do good and to love one another!

Blessings, *Sue*

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.

Did you Know That our Church has its Own Cemetery??

It was established in 1715 and was formerly known as Great Plains Cemetery, but is now called the Old Plains Cemetery. It reflects the earliest days of the community, when the area was known as the North Society. The Cemetery has burials dating back to 1707!

Please visit anytime. There are two ways to enter: either on foot off the Hewitt Farm trails or by car via an unmarked dirt road immediately after the Buon Appetito Restaurant, going west on Route 2.

Kris Serwinski, Old Plains Cemetery Superintendent



Women's CONNECTION,
"Lunch Bunch"

BROWN BAG LUNCH

***We will have pumpkin pie for
dessert, with Reddi-Whip!***

Wednesday, OCTOBER 21st

NOON Hewitt Hall

*All ladies are welcome to attend.
We hope you can come.*



Please Mark Your Calendar for
Outreach Activities:

All October –Pawcatuck Neighborhood Center.

CAT FOODS - ALL TYPES

HYGIENE PRODUCTS -

The need is greater than ever. Thank you!

WALK TO END ALZHEIMER'S!

NEW DATE: Sunday, October 11th

Opens at 9 am, 10 am Ceremony, 10:30 Walk

October 18th – CROP HUNGER WALK

Mystic, CT, 1 PM



**Neighbors
in Need**

This UCC offering supports ministries of justice and compassion, with one-third given to the Council for American Indian Ministries and the remaining two-thirds supporting UCC justice ministries.

Grants are awarded to churches and organizations that do justice work in their communities, including justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects.

Thank you for your support and generosity!

Special envelopes will be placed in the pews.



***Get Ready for Excitement as we
Prepare to Share All we Can!
THERE OUR HEARTS WILL BE***



October will lay an important foundation for our 2027 budget. It is a time for all of us to plan together as we choose to promise or pledge our 2027 offerings. We have a wonderful congregation with many who share our church ministries, AMEN to that.

Now, can you prayerfully pledge to give and even give more for the coming year? Much work needs to be done here, and your help is needed.

October 11 th	Generosity Sunday
October 18 th	Proposed Budget meeting
Week of October 19 th	Special Mailing
October 25 th	Special Music
November 1 st Saints' Day	Celebration Sunday and All

MONTHLY MISSION PROJECTS: 2026-2027

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



Columbus Day Poem –IN 1492, Columbus Sailed The Ocean Blue - (Scholastic)

In 1492, in fourteen hundred ninety-two,
Columbus sailed the ocean blue. He had three ships and left from Spain; He sailed through sunshine, wind, and rain. He sailed by night; he sailed by day; He used the stars to find his way. A compass also helped him find his way. Ninety sailors were on board; Some men worked while others snored. Then the workers went to sleep, and others watched the ocean deep. Day after day, they looked for land; they dreamed of trees and rocks and sand. On October 12th, their dream came true. You never saw a happier crew!

“Indians! Indians!” Columbus cried; his heart was filled with joyful pride. But “India,” the land was not; It was the Bahamas, and it was hot. The Arakawa natives were very nice; they gave the sailors food and spices. Columbus sailed on to find some gold to bring back home, as he’d been told. He made the trip again and again, trading gold to bring to Spain. The first American? No, not quite. But Columbus was brave, and he was clever, although not exactly bright.

So, now the tale is done, and history shows how he changed life for those natives, made them slaves, and stole away their goods.

Next: did you know that Indigenous Peoples’ Day was actually adopted in California in 1992 (32 years ago)? It began in Berkley, CA, with festivals and contests, a powwow, and a market.

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation was represented; one member, Mille Ketcheschawno, won the prettiest shawl contest. She had already become an activist for Native American rights and was one of the founders of that first Indigenous Peoples’ Day.

Thanks a Heap!

Thanks to...

- Those who assisted with the funeral of Mimi Borden.
- Michael Noonan for planning the musical tributes as we remembered the 9-11 attacks and all who suffered loss and health problems.
- CE for the “indoor” garden party.
- All of the returning and new choir members.
- Our many volunteers for lay reading, ushering, bringing flowers for the altar, and lighting the steeple.
- All the cooks and helpers for the Taco Tuesday dinner.
- Catherine Haugh for sharing about Covenant to Care.
- Our new class of confirmands and Pastor Sue’s leadership.
- Our committee members, who are returning to their regular activities.
- The pie people, who keep on baking and selling pies.
- Everyone who brought in items for the Fun Kid Kits.
- Sponsors for Helen’s Walk to End Alzheimer’s.
- All who showed interest and volunteered for Habitat for Humanity of Eastern CT.

October Birthdays...

2	Mackenzie Turrisi
3	Steven Nilson
5	DJ McGouran
7	Kathi Thaxton, Mary Wilska
10	Michael Kimball
12	David McCord, Ethan Thompson
14	Susan Pianka
15	Donna Thompson
17	Brett Gumbert
18	Gabriel Doble
19	Brian Hager
21	Arthur Doble
23	Joseph Serwinski
25	Eli Gadaree
28	Meredith Coats
29	Kyle McCue
30	Don Ouellette
31	Peter Davis



... and Anniversaries

1	Ann & James McFarland
7	Katherine & DJ McGouran
11	Elaine & Brad Ricci

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-Oct	Patty Danley Monica Eppinger	Karen Dobley	Open Date	Gretchen Noonan	Dave McCord Kathi Thaxton	Youth Choir Rehearsal Blessing of the Animals
11-Oct	Gretchen Noonan Kevin Noonan	Anne Nelson	Open Date	Open Date		Deacons' Meeting
18-Oct	Joe Serwinski Kris Serwinski	Matthew Sander	Open Date	Sherri Boldt		Budget Meeting
25-Oct	Steve Gadaree Matthew Sander	Ron Robbins	Open Date	Open Date		

October 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.

4th – Communion Sunday – “Sour Grapes”

Isaiah 5:1-7 and Matthew 21:33-46. Isaiah sings of a lost vineyard; Jesus tells of wickedness in a vineyard.

Senior Choir sings; Blessing of the Animals after worship.

11th - “Mixed Blessings”. Isaiah 25:6-9 and Matthew 22:1-14.

The prophet speaks of a time when troubles will pass away; Jesus’ parable of the wedding banquet seems to end well until someone is tossed out.

Senior Choir sings.

13th - German Dinner, 5 to 6:30 pm - all welcome!

18th - “Where is Your Treasure?” Matthew 22:15-22 and Psalm

96. Jesus gives us an example of where to place our loyalties; the psalmist helps us sing a new song to the Lord.

Senior Choir sings, Handbells ring. Budget Meeting following worship.

25th - “Harder to Love than to Hate” Matthew 22:34-46

1 Thessalonians 2:1-8. Jesus teaches all who would hear what the Greatest Commandment is; Paul carries out this same commandment.

Senior Choir and Youth Choir sing.

MISSION FOCUS FOR October: Neighbors In Need collection -

United Church of Christ, supports ministries of justice and compassion, with one-third of the offering given to the Council for American Indian Ministries and the remaining two-thirds supporting UCC justice ministries. In 2025, the Neighbors in Need Offering supported 26 grant recipients across the UCC who were engaged in direct service and advocacy projects.