



## The Chimes

October Edition

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### From the Pastor's Desk:

*"As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest,  
cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night  
will never cease."* Genesis 8:22

October brings to mind falling leaves, pumpkins and signs of the harvest. A time of plenty – or as we might say, blessings. When we focus on blessings in our lives we become more grateful and generous people. The scripture above is part of God's promise to Noah, after the flood. A promise that the earth will bless us. For the earth to continue to bless us we need to be mindful of the earth. Which is why our trustees and council have worked with the Inter-regligious Eco-Justice Network, Terry Eickel and Eversource. We will have lights replaced to save electricity – and cost! Consider ways you too can be more kind to our earth.

Our children are also blessings, now and for the future. Their voices on Sunday mornings, seeing them grow in faith is heartening. The Board of Christian Education and the Council approved a 5-hour/week church school leader position for fall. Margaret Leonard has jumped in with both feet and all heart, leading the teaching and reaching out to our children. Meanwhile our Board of CE is updating the job description, hoping to hire a coordinator in 2024. Children and families grow the church.

And Blessings come in many forms! People have walked in off the street to make donations (from \$25 to \$50,000 for our ceiling repair!) One never knows how a conversation will turn up someone who simply needs an opportunity to be generous. It turns out that Apple employees can direct matching gifts right to our church! And if they volunteer hours a donation is made. What other employers offer this through Benevity? Does your place of business do matching donations?

Time is also a blessing that I am grateful for as I complete the balance of my sabbatical. I head to Iona for prayer and reflection.

I will also visit old and new friends and go on a walking pilgrimage.  
I return to the pulpit on November 12th with a Generosity sermon.

Meanwhile, consider the blessings in your life...and how You  
are a blessing as well! In Christ's Peace, *Sue*

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## *Annual Christmas Bazaar Hewitt Hall*



*NOVEMBER 4<sup>th</sup>, 2023. 9 am to 2 pm*

*Luncheon 11:30 am to 1:00 pm*

*Turkey salad on a roll, tomato soup, fancy desserts*

Ways to help us: please know you are invited to be on the team! As always, set up and clean up are so important.

### **Next is the Needs list for your Bazaar:**

**Cookies:** Baking at home or here on cookie baking days, cookie trays (Patty Danley; week of October 30)

**Gifts:** Homemade, Sewing, knitting, crafts, jewelry

**Baked Goods:** Breads, special candy, cookies and cupcakes, preserved foods (Sue Pianka)

## 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 22, 2023, following worship.

The purpose of the meeting is to:

- Hear and act on the Church Council's proposed FY2024 budget, for planning and stewardship campaign purposes. The final FY2024 Budget will voted on during the Church's Annual Meeting held January 2024.
- 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 Preview for Oct 22.



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## **STEWARDSHIP of HOPE**



Through our Fall Program of faithful stewardship, we seek to create an attitude of giving as we promote generosity for our church and our wider “church.” We will be developing our promise program – an annual campaign that will include faith-based approaches that promote giving through pledging.

***“Because of YOU,***

***Our church changes lives.”***

*It is through your generosity that you will help our congregation make a difference in ...*

- The caring and the education of our children.
- The faith development of our youth.
- Opportunities to grow spiritually and develop talents through music, worship and prayer.
- Leading others by assisting with worship roles.
- Accepting leadership roles that are open to all church members.
- Many activities that support the ministries of the church.
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**Because of YOU, our congregation changes lives!**

HOW?

Look to scripture: Micah 6:8 (NRSV)  
*He has told you, O mortal, what is good;*

*and what does the Lord require of you ...*

*but to do justice, and to love kindness,*

*and to walk humbly with your God?*

*That is exactly how each one can participate in our  
annual campaign for to achieve a sound 2024 General  
Budget.*

- You will receive regular mailings/emails.
- You will have these dates to keep you informed about our budget needs:

Sunday, October 22 - Church Meeting to Vote on  
Proposed Budget

Week of October 23 - Mailing of Generosity Campaign

Sunday, November 1 - Stewardship Sermon

November 1 through December 10 - Generosity  
Campaign; please return your Pledge Card with a  
prayerful Pledge

Sunday, January 21, 2024 - Annual Church Meeting

***WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP &  
LUNCH  
Hewitt Hall***



**NOON, Wednesday, October 18<sup>th</sup>**

Please call if you wish to car pool

***All ladies, newcomers, young, old and  
interested are welcome to attend and  
participate.***

***Agenda to revolve around planning for  
OUR upcoming November Bazaar!***

## **Important Days to Recognize in October**

***October 9, Indigenous People Day***

***October 11, International Day of the Girl***

***October 16, World Food Day***

***October 28, Make a Difference Day***

***“Neighbor to Neighbor”***

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**Neighbors in Need (NIN)** is the special mission offering for October.

NIN is an offering of the UCC that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States.

One third of NIN funds support the Council for American Indian Ministry. Two thirds of the offering are used by the UCC’s Justice and Witness Ministries to support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects through grants.

Neighbors in Need grants are awarded to churches and organizations doing justice work in their communities.

Thank you in advance for your support to support NIN for these projects and grants.

**-The Mission Committee**



### **UCC Global Ministries Vision:**

That all of God's people and creation share in God's abundant life.

Global Ministries is the common witness of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the United Church of Christ. Our two denominations have a formal partnership through which Disciples Overseas Ministries and the UCC's Wider Church Ministries share common staff, budget, programs/projects, and governance in our presence and witness with international partners throughout the global community.

Global Ministries works with approximately 250 partners in close to 90 countries. We join hands with international partners and walk together in mutual love and respect with our siblings around the world.

With partner churches, nonprofit organizations, and ecumenical bodies throughout the world, we share life, resources, support, and faith. This often includes advocacy work, opportunities for mutual exchange and learning, sharing of mission personnel, sharing of financial and material resources, and being in prayer for and with international partners. Join us in realizing our vision that all of God's people and creation share in God's abundant life.



# **2023 CWS CROP Hunger WALK**

***Sunday, October 15***

***Mystic Area Ecumenical Council Leads the  
Mystic Walk***



"Church World Service," which sponsors the walk is a faith-based organization transforming communities around the globe through just and sustainable responses to hunger, poverty, displacement and disasters.

**Please, WALK OR SPONSOR**

***This year you are encouraged  
to register OR Donate online  
at [CWS.org](https://www.cws.org).***

Money raised, other than online, is to be turned into St. Mark's Lutheran church office in Mystic or to Julie Evans. Checks are made out to CWS CROP and the memo would say Mystic CT Walk. Church World Service sends back 1/4 of the money raised to be used locally, and we help local agencies.

## *Thanks a Heap!*

Thanks to...

- Mary Bliven for compiling the Sunday School packets.
- Jamie Towle-Weicksel for her continued support of church activities.
- The Tech Committee for live streaming services.
- Steve Weicksel for helping Brian run a ethernet cable from the office to the sanctuary.
- Paul Ames for mowing the lawns, and all who worked on trimming shrubbery.
- John Terluk and Mike Noonan for helping Paul with the lawn mowing.
- Gary Annino, our neighbor, for the use of his hammer drill.
- The Noonan Family and Margaret for keeping up with the draining of the Dehumidifiers.
- Helen Evans for participating in the Alzheimer's Walk, and to all who donated.
- Rev. Mobby Larson for serving as our worship musician while Michael Noonan was out of town.
- Monica Eppinger for continuing to return cans and bottles for redemption, taking contributed items to PNC, and mailing the pop tops for the Ronald MacDonald House.
- Irene Donald for hosting a luncheon for Women's Fellowship.
- Sharon Roode for being so dedicated to pie-making
- All who donated to PNC for the Hunger Awareness campaign with foods and contributions for back packs and the summer food supply.

## *Thanks a Heap! (continued)*

- All who brought in School supplies for the CWS School Kits.
- All of the pie people baking weekly, selling pies, shopping and assisting in many ways.
- Mary Bliven for her dedication to Christian Ed and all she has done for the children and all their programs.
- Those volunteers who are helping Mary Bliven with CE.
- Margaret Leonard, who has accepted a temporary role as church school leader;
- The council and the trustees who have made strides on our Green Congregation Challenge, continuing with all LED fixtures.
- Our Choirs returning to practice and worship.
- All of our summer musicians.
- All of our busy volunteers keeping us involved in our church family and worship.
- Our dedicated staff for keeping the spirit alive, here!



## **October Birthdays...**

<b>2</b>	<b>Mackenzie Turrisi</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Beverly Wilson</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>Thea Carrigan, Mary Wilska</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>Michael Kimball</b>
<b>12</b>	<b>David McCord, Ethan Thompson</b>
<b>13</b>	<b>Ben Young</b>
<b>14</b>	<b>Susan Pianka</b>
<b>15</b>	<b>Donna Thompson</b>
<b>18</b>	<b>Gabriel Doble</b>
<b>19</b>	<b>Brian Hager</b>
<b>21</b>	<b>Art Doble</b>
<b>23</b>	<b>Dan Sawyer, Joe Serwinski</b>
<b>24</b>	<b>Rose Aitken</b>
<b>26</b>	<b>Tom Evans</b>
<b>28</b>	<b>Merry Coats</b>
<b>29</b>	<b>Kyle McCue</b>
	<b>Dennis Bliven Jr., Peter Davis, Kathy</b>
<b>31</b>	<b>Tredwell</b>



## **... and Anniversaries**

	<b>Anne (Booker) and James</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>McFarland</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Brian and Sherri Boldt</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Jamie and Melissa Thaxton</b>
<b>11</b>	<b>Brad and Elaine Ricci</b>
<b>17</b>	<b>Larry and Rachel Beam</b>

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-Oct	Steve Gadaree Matthew Sander	Ron Robbins	Serwinski	Kathi Thaxton	Monica Eppinger Ron Robbins	
08-Oct	Gretchen Noonan Kevin Noonan	Amy Foster	Boldt	<b>Open Date</b>		
15-Oct	Joe Serwinski Kris Serwinski	Monica Eppinger	Weicksel	<b>Open Date</b>		
22-Oct	Paul Ames Pat Turner	Anne Nelson	Coulter	<b>Open Date</b>		
29-Oct	Steve Gadaree Matthew Sander	Matthew Sander	Bliven	Boldt		

# Worship Watch - October 2023

Worship at 10 a.m. & streaming online.

Church School at 10:15 - Zoom-accessible &  
in-person. Office Hours Mon-Thurs 9 to 1.



## **1<sup>st</sup> - Communion Sunday "Humble Bragging"**

Water from a rock and Jesus' humble service to God and to us.

We look to Christ as our example and to God to fill us.

Senior Choir Sings. Deacons meet after worship.

**8<sup>th</sup> - "Best Ways to Live" Exodus 20:1-20 and Matthew 21:33-46.** Moses brings the people God's commandments; Jesus demonstrates how his world ignores those commandments and rejects God's son. Senior Choir sings.

**15<sup>th</sup> - Elyon Wells, Student Preacher –worship leader.** We welcome 1<sup>st</sup> –year seminary student Elyon Wells from Yale Andover Newton to our pulpit while Pastor Sue is away. Please offer a hearty welcome! Senior Choir sings. Handbell Choir rings.

**22<sup>nd</sup> - Antonio Vargas, Student Preacher – worship leader.** We welcome 3<sup>rd</sup> –year seminary student Antonio Vargas from Yale Andover Newton to our pulpit. Senior Choir sings.

**29<sup>th</sup> Elyon Wells - Student Preacher – worship leader** Senior Choir and Youth Choir Sing. All Hallow's Eve in church school

**October Mission Focus: Neighbors in Need offering.**

*"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, economic status, mental or physical challenges, nationality or sexual identity. 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."*