



# The Church Caller

A monthly publication of Ellington Congregational Church

March 2021



## SUNDAY VIRTUAL WORSHIP SERVICE

10:00 a.m.

PREACHING

INTENTIONAL INTERIM  
REVEREND JOANNE MYER

Sunday, MARCH 7<sup>TH</sup>

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

COMMUNION SUNDAY

GIRL SCOUT SUNDAY

EXODUS 20:1-17

PSALM 19

JOHN 2:13-22

“SEEING IN THE LIGHT OF THE  
RESURRECTION”

Sunday, MARCH 14<sup>TH</sup>

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

NUMBERS 21:4-9

PSALM 107:1-3, 17-22

JOHN 3:14-21

“LOVE IS AN ACTION”

Sunday, MARCH 21<sup>ST</sup>

FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

JEREMIAH 31:31-34

PSALM 119:9-16

JOHN 12:20-36

“A REDEFINITION”

Sunday, MARCH 28<sup>TH</sup>

SIXTH SUNDAY IN LENT

PALM / PASSION SUNDAY

JOHN 12:12-16 LITURGY OF THE

PSALMS

MARK 14:1-15:47 LITURGY OF  
THE PASSION



## Welcome the Intentional Interim Pastor

Over the past several months, the Diaconate has been searching for an Intentional Interim Pastor. We had received four profiles to review. Two candidates had already taken positions, and one did not have the training or experience to meet our needs. We interviewed the third candidate extensively and offered him the position. However, after two weeks of careful discernment, he declined our offer based on personal reasons. We looked to the Southern New England conference for further profiles.

At this point, we retained Reverend Joanne Myer as a Bridge Minister to cover the gap between Dr. Jay's leaving and the call to an Intentional Interim Pastor. Bridge Ministers are considered placeholders until such time as an Intentional Interim Ministers is called. They do not have specialized training and experience to help churches going through transitions and/or recovering from traumatic experiences that Intentional Interim Pastors have.

Bridge Ministers are usually suggested by the conference and not searched for by a church. This was the case with Rev. Joanne; she was suggested by Rev. Chuck Ericson, our then conference minister. But as part of due diligence, we received her profile. A careful review of her profile gave us a look into her background, skill sets and experiences. We also discovered she was a trained and qualified Intentional Interim Minister.

Continued on page 2

## Welcome

continued from page 1

Diaconate interviewed Rev. Joanne at length at our February meeting. We questioned her on how she viewed the difference between Bridge and Intentional Interim ministry, what she would do to help us heal and recover from the trauma of Dr. Jay's leaving and how she would go about it. She stated she would use a consultant to help with the process as our congregation was too large for a solo pastor to provide pastoral care and also lead the healing ministry that is needed without help. At the end of our interview, we offered the position of Intentional Interim Minister to Rev. Joanne and she accepted. She will be with us until we have a settled pastor.

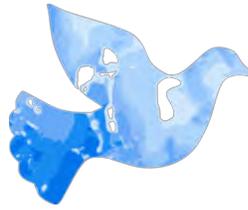
What does this mean for us, the congregation? We no longer have a Bridge Minister as the gap has been covered. We have an Intentional Interim Minister who will be with us until we have a settled pastor. We will have the same face and voice that we have begun to know, albeit virtually. She will help us to heal and re-join together as a faithful family of God following the teachings of Jesus Christ.

We will covenant with Rev. Joanne, formally, once we can be together in the sanctuary. Part of that covenant will indicate that Rev. Joanne will not place her profile into consideration for a settled position with Ellington Congregational Church. This was not the easy way out to finding an Intentional Interim Minister. The profile came across the proverbial desk and was reviewed. It just happened that the author of said profile was a face we had become familiar with, a voice we had already heard and a deep faith that we were beginning to experience.

Please join the diaconate in welcoming Reverend Joanne Myer as the Intentional Interim Minister for Ellington Congregational Church!

Dawn Stone for the Diaconate

## *Greetings from the Intentional Interim Minister...*



On February 21<sup>st</sup>, the First Sunday in Lent, one line in the Call to Worship and Awareness said, "Lent calls us to take upon ourselves, as a faith community, the intention of true participation in the mystery of God-with-us." In the first two weeks of Lent (2/21 and 2/28), the lectionary has led us to reflect on the theme of covenant. The first recorded covenant was made with everyone and everything on earth through Noah. Then there was another promise made to Abraham that he would be the forebearer of a multitude of descendants who would be a sign of God's covenant with God's chosen people.

The theme of covenant will continue during the month of March. As a faith community, you have been working hard to keep people involved in the meaning and work of the church through challenging times. You have been putting purpose and perseverance into your journeys of discipleship. We must continue to covenant with God to overcome obstacles that would keep the church community from mission with all people everywhere. Every step taken in God's name is a good step!

As you read this March Caller, you will see that wonderful happenings await us as we journey with Jesus and the cross to Easter Sunday. What a glorious Hallelujah Day that will be!

Your Sister in Christ,

*Pastor Joanne*



## **A Lenten Project and Practice**

It is not too late to practice and prepare a Lenten Container.

This can be a large bowl (perhaps it is a special bowl), a small wooden box or a small cardboard box

that you can decorate in whatever way you choose, a basket, or a sack made from cloth. The ideas are endless.

- decorate a box with pictures glued or decoupage onto it
- decorate a box with gems, sequins, feathers, tiles
- decorate a basket with ribbons or flowers
- sew a special bag

Then place something small or flat that is very meaningful to you in the bottom of the bowl. This could be something you draw, a picture of family, or a special present that was given to you.

You will need small pieces of paper or card stock to write on and a pencil, pen, or crayon to write with.

During Lent, beginning with Ash Wednesday, write messages on the paper or card stock and place them in the container each day.

- write a prayer or prayers for the day
- write a word that is important to you that day (or several words)
- write about or name a blessing or blessings
- write whatever you want to say to God or Jesus

Again, the possibilities are endless and you can write down as many things as you want during a day.

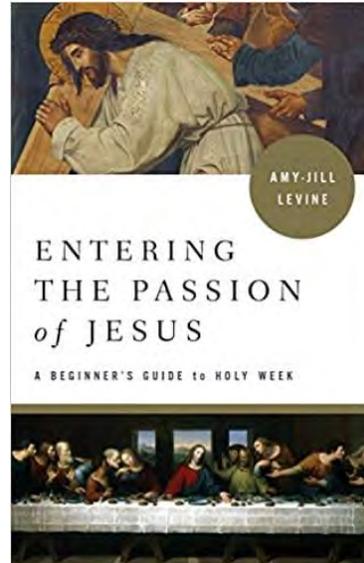
This can be done alone or as a family project. Perhaps each person in the family would like to make a container OR you could have one family container.

When you watch Ash Wednesday service or Sunday service, have the container with you – treat it as a sacred object.

On Easter Day, look at and ponder what you have written throughout the Lenten season. You may want to keep your reflections private or you may want to share some things as a family.

The idea is to keep us aware of how God works in our lives at all times and in all places.

Your Sister in Christ,  
Reverend Joanne



## Lenten Study

### “ENTERING THE PASSION OF JESUS”

#### A Guide to Holy Week Lenten Study by Amy-Jill Devine

A message from the author: “This is not your ordinary Lenten study. As the chapters unfold, we delve into

the history and literature of the last days of Jesus’ life. We find ways to understand and question our own lives through the stories of his trials and choices. This Lenten journey challenges us to examine our consciences and find out how deepening our relationship with Jesus and the Bible brings us into closer relationship with others and the world.”

Amy-Jill is moved to put her faith into action when she studies the Passion Narrative. Of note is the fact that Amy-Jill Devine is Jewish and very dedicated to her faith. As a historian and a scholar who loves the New Testament, Amy-Jill Levine is a University Professor of New Testament and Jewish Studies at Vanderbilt Divinity School and College of Arts and Sciences. She guides candidates for Christian ministry to understand the New Testament text “that grounds their vocation and guides their lives.”

If you are interested in this Lenten study, please email Joanne at [jmyer0146@yahoo.com](mailto:jmyer0146@yahoo.com) and the church office at [sec-eccucc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sec-eccucc@sbcglobal.net) as it is never too late to join. Books are available at your local bookstore or online.

Even if you have taken part in the study of this book before, there are always new insights that can be uncovered.

Blessings and Peace,  
Rev. Joanne

## Re-Opening Team Update:

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Romans 15:13 (NIV)

Your Re-Opening Team continues to meet frequently and we are very pleased to fill you in on the latest plans. We have a **tentative** schedule for beginning some in-person worship services. As things continue to improve, we hope to be able to do even more, and will keep you posted. We are prayerful that the COVID numbers will continue to move down and that Ellington moves out of code red.

**Please note, even those who have been vaccinated need to continue following protocols with masks, social distancing, etc.** The church building remains closed, except for during these in-person worship services. We will not be holding Social Hour following the services.

For health and safety when gathering in-person the State and CDC protocols will be followed.

**TENTATIVE SCHEDULE** – More details will be forthcoming, as we get closer to the dates.

**March 21** – One in-person service in our sanctuary. This will require making a reservation in advance, as we are limited to the number in the sanctuary. Masks, social distancing, and hand sanitizer will be required. There will also be a virtual service offered. Both the in-person and virtual service will be at 10:00 a.m.

### HOLY WEEK:

**March 28 - Palm Sunday** – One in-person service in our sanctuary with the same requirements of advance reservations and required protocols. There will also be a virtual service offered. Services in-person and virtual are at 10:00 a.m.

**April 1 - Maundy Thursday** – Will be a virtual service.

**April 2 - 4 Prayer Vigil (Good Friday to Easter morning)** – In-person vigil with only one person in the sanctuary at a time with no overlap in the Bride's Room. Sign-ups are expected to be online.

**April 4 – Easter Sunday** – One, large, in-person service outdoors on the front lawn with protocols followed, and a virtual service offered. Both the in-person Easter service and the virtual service will be at 10:00 a.m.

More details, such as the online registration for in-person services will be sent out in a future email blast.

We encourage all Boards and Committees to consider creatively how they can continue activities virtually or in some other safe manner. Please contact us at [reopening@eccucc.org](mailto:reopening@eccucc.org)

If there is a need for an exception to enter the church building, the process is to contact both the church secretary by email, [sec-eccucc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sec-eccucc@sbcglobal.net) and Chair of Trustees, [cgross@snet.net](mailto:cgross@snet.net)

There is an ongoing schedule kept to minimize any overlap of entry and to track entry into the building.

Blessings,

Re-Opening Team  
Chas Gross, Chair; Mary Iovine;  
Sharon McLaughlin; Robin Miller; Joann Scott  
Dawn Stone

## Resolution of Gratitude for 2020

As presented at the Annual Meeting

January 28, 2021

By: Alexis Kozikowski

2020.

This was a year that challenged us in so many ways.

This year has been filled with sadness and despair; A global pandemic, loss of jobs, so many people lost their lives, a time of social and political unrest, division, a time where people are home in what might not be the safest or healthiest environments, the list of heartaches could go on and on,

unfortunately. This past year was one where more people turned to God for answers, for prayers, for hope and peace.

Amidst this sad and tragic time in our world, it is even more important to look for the things we are thankful for, a time to express our gratitude.

Many of you know that in March of 2020 I had my son, then two days later it was declared that we were in a global pandemic. Then less than a week later the United States shut down. Like many of you, I was confused, scared, worried, mad, frustrated, and so many other emotions; all while trying to find a “new normal” with a newborn and a husband who was laid off. It felt like the world was against us, but a very important person in my life, my mom, told me that amongst the chaos it is important to look for those silver linings.

So everyday, that is exactly what I did.

Some of us were able to slow down and our sudden full schedules, became empty.

We were able to spend more time at home with our loved ones.

Some of us were able to try something new.

We were able to spend more time with our pets.

As a church family we also have had many silver linings throughout this past year, that we can be thankful for. We have made growth beyond our Visioning Team’s goals.

James 1:3 “Because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance.” Perseverance is exactly what we had:

- Our church services have expanded beyond our four walls and across the country. We have been able to reach members and friends, new and old.
- We had a pastor that supported us in this uneasy and new phase of our virtual church life.
- So many of our members stepped up to continue our mission, God’s mission - Brian was the man behind the virtual services

- We were still able to have our beautiful music thanks to Esther and our musical members. She was able to put together a virtual play, too!
- Our lay leaders adapted to the new technology platform, and it was amazing that we were able to incorporate them into the virtual church services.
- We have been able to stay connected because many of our committees came up with new and creative ways to reach us.
- We have been able to continue to give to our neighbors in need, despite all of our own struggles. We had a food collection that went door to door.
- We were able to help others put Thanksgiving meals on their tables, with our record number of Thanksgiving Bags collected.
- Our youth have felt valued, appreciated and heard through the continued efforts of our church school teachers, Lee, Dr. Jay, BCE, and many others.
- Despite many obstacles, we were able to co-host Vacation Bible School.
- We have come together and worked together to continue God’s mission.
- We have felt more gratitude for the few times, when we were able to worship in person and be in each other's presence.
- I am sure there is so much more that I am missing, but to sum it up, despite everything we have all endured in the past year, there are many silver linings we can find.

If you were to ask any of us this time last year, what growth we would make in the year 2020; we could have never imagined we would be here. We have grown because all of you, without everyone’s faith and hope, we would never be where we are today.

Romans 15:13 “May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.”

Amen





## News From the Diaconate

It has been a year since we last met in our sanctuary for worship BUT as you can see from other articles in this Caller, we will, barring the unforeseen, be back in the sanctuary for worship March 21<sup>st</sup> and on Palm Sunday, March 28<sup>th</sup>!

And Easter! We will gather in front of the church for an in-person worship with communion! This is truly a hallelujah event! Easter music, seeing one another, albeit with masks, just being together while six feet apart!

What about communion? Easter is the first Sunday of the month when we traditionally serve communion and the Sunday will be no different. The Diaconate has been exploring many different ways to serve communion in the age of pandemic and social distancing and have settled on the following for the immediate future...



What you see above is an all-in-one communion element piece. Image one (1) shows the closed unit, about 1” high; image two (2) shows the first seal open revealing a wafer (the host or bread); image three (3) shows the second seal open revealing the juice. You will open each section as instructed during the liturgy of communion. These will be distributed by the Deacons as you enter the area of the front lawn on Easter Sunday and you will hold them until the service of communion. Until pandemic restrictions relax enough to allow the service of communion in the more familiar way, this will be our norm even when we return to the

sanctuary.

What about other aspects of the Easter season? Maundy Thursday will be a virtual service again this year but we have tentative plans to have the Good Friday to Easter Prayer Vigil in-person in the sanctuary. Plans are tentative and will be shared via email blasts and on the ECC website, [www.eccucc.org](http://www.eccucc.org) when finalized. This is what we have so far: there will be only one person at a time in the sanctuary for the vigil, no overflow in the Bride’s room. Access will be via the elevator only. Signups will be on the ECC website or by calling the church office if web access is not available. There are more details to be finalized which will be shared as Good Friday and the vigil nears. If pandemic protocols continue in the direction they are currently headed, we will be able to “stay awake and pray one hour” with Jesus in the sanctuary.

Keep praying for continued improvement in the status of the COVID-19 pandemic and we will soon be back in our sanctuary for worship full time!

Peace and blessings,  
Dawn Stone, for the Diaconate



## TRUSTEES CORNER

### It is March 2021 Already!

It is amazing how fast the church year flies by and how quickly we are into the first quarter of a new one. At the end of any given year, it is crunch time for the month of January as we end the year, make needed decisions and prepare the budget. By the time we get to the Annual Meeting, we are well into the beginning of the new year. There are other reporting requirements, review of upcoming contracts, and hopeful plans made. Your Trustees continue meeting by Zoom and working on keeping the church property and finances in order. We will have completed one entire quarter of 2021 by the

end of this month. There are several capital projects being planned this year. Stay tuned for more details.

We are very pleased that the 2021 Budget passed unanimously at the Annual Meeting on January 28, 2021. Scott Noble provided an excellent presentation of the proposed budget, while Wade Overgaard did a great job recapping the financial year of the church in 2020. Thanks and appreciation to both Scott and Wade for their presentations!

After discussion and careful consideration, we did budget for a significant draw from our Trust Fund earnings for 2021, and the amount we have budgeted this year to take from accumulated earnings is \$70,592. This is not a position that would be sustainable for years, but for last year and this year, we have been dealing with extraordinary issues from the pandemic. As you can imagine, many of the receipts that we receive in “normal” times did not happen and will not happen until we reopen the church. There were no loose offerings after mid-March 2020. Church fundraisers were limited to the oil program in 2020. We are hopeful that 2021 will be a different year, although the beginning of 2021 has not seemed much different from most of 2020. As people continue to become vaccinated, and the COVID numbers continue trending in the right direction, we expect more in-person opportunities fairly soon.

We just heard the wonderful news that People’s United Bank submitted our PPP loan to the SBA and the PPP loan from last year has been forgiven! This means we do not need to repay the loan that we received during the beginning of the pandemic in 2020, which was \$36,787. It was used primarily to maintain regular hours for all staff, despite the church building being closed. We are deeply grateful and appreciative of the time and energy spent by our Treasurer, Wade Overgaard to shepherd us through the process from application on to this final outcome. Many thanks to Wade!

The Trustees sent a video presentation and message through the church email distribution regarding pledging a few weeks ago. As you may know from the Annual Meeting, Pledged Offerings were down over \$57,000 for 2021 compared to 2020. Please

take a moment to view the brief video hosted by Chas, if you have not already seen it. We pray that those who are able will prayerfully consider increasing their pledge.

Our “dungeon” area of the church building is being renovated as part of an Eagle Scout project by Owen Feindel. There will be new flooring, walls painted and a “barn door” installed. (The dungeon is located by going through the double doors of the Social Room, to an area under the front steps of the church.) Our thanks go to Owen as he undertakes the leadership of this project.

Finally, the Trustees are in the process of reviewing all of our investment vehicles, as we look for additional areas to improve returns, including reducing fees charged.

Blessings,  
Chas Gross, Chair of Trustees

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## Daylight Saving Time Begins Sunday, MARCH 14<sup>TH</sup>.



## Prayer Shawl Ministry



The Prayer Shawl Ministry group is not meeting while the church building is closed. However, if you are looking for a shawl, lap robe for men and women or a pocket prayer, please give me a call. I have these items at my home and we can make an arrangement for pickup. Jan Starkweather, 860-875-1543. Thank you.

**REMINDER:  
April Caller Deadline  
MARCH 15, 2021**

## Some Lite House Keeping

**You are important to us...Moving or have moved? *Change of Name or Phone Number?* Would you like to see your birthday or anniversary listed? *New to ECC?***



Please notify by note, email or call the Church Office with your current information as soon as possible.

When *mailing* items through the United States Postal Service to Ellington Congregational Church, please be sure to use the **mailing address: P.O. Box 216**

**shipping address: 72 Main Street**  
Thank you!

## News From Growth & Nurture

Thank you to everyone who participated in the January Scavenger Hunt! This event was open to our church and the community. We had six winners. The winners won a gift card to Luann's Bakery or Gerry's Donuts.

Congratulations to:

The Mangold Family  
The Feindel Family  
The Bellezza Family  
The Banks Family  
Doreen Brady  
Linda Tingley and Matthew Pozzato

Are you interested in joining our phone call campaign? We are asking members of the congregation to help us reach out to as many people as we can via phone call. If you are interested in helping out, please contact [outreach@eccucc.org](mailto:outreach@eccucc.org) (Jill McAllister) for more information.

Join us on Facebook during Lent! We will have a weekly post about ways that we can perform acts of service/kindness during this time. The Facebook group is "Ellington Congregational Church Members & Friends" and can be found by typing that into your search bar on Facebook. We hope you will join us!

*.be.*  
**KIND**



**Your pledge makes a difference.  
Thank you so very much.**

### Stewardship Update

### eGiving at ECC!

See page 21 for details.

### Pledge/Contributions 2021



When submitting a check, please always write your giving/envelope number, and the year for which the offering is intended on the check memo/for line.

Thank you for your attention, understanding and for your financial support of the mission and ministries of the Ellington Congregational Church.



# MISSIONS is on a mission

*As the Board of Missions,  
we exemplify a heart full of love,  
an ear ready to listen,  
and a hand willing to help.*

### What Missions Recently Accomplished:

- In February, Missions donated to Hands on Hartford as part of their continued support for an organization that does so much for their community.

*Again, thank you to all who knitted mittens for Maple St. School. They were beautiful and will keep little fingers warm.*



## OUR SHOPPING CART FOOD FOR MARCH

**Cold Cereals  
Hot Instant Oatmeal  
Breakfast Bars**

*We greatly appreciate all  
donations,  
including grocery store gift cards!*

## THANK YOU!

### Mobile Grocery Cart –

please email Tammie Mangold with your address at [Tammie.Mangold@gmail.com](mailto:Tammie.Mangold@gmail.com) if you are able to do this, you can leave a bag outside your door. The items will be picked up and delivered to Cornerstone. Thank you! Board of Missions

### Sue's Cupboard Quip:

Never let yesterday, use up today.

Unknown



### Don't forget!

Missions and Stewardship Lenten food drive.

Grab a bag — fill it up — and deliver it to the church parking lot on Sunday, March 14 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. (snow date March 21)

# Birthday Celebrations!



Several months ago, our Missions Board invited us to do something new: as part of celebrating our own birthday, we can provide a birthday celebration bag for a child or youth whose family might not be able to afford to do this. If

you are able to supply the bag, cake mix and frosting, BoMissions will complete the bag. Why not thank God for your birthday, by preparing such a birthday celebration bag for a child who might not have such a party?

Please email Tammie Mangold with your address at [Tammie.Mangold@gmail.com](mailto:Tammie.Mangold@gmail.com) if you are able to do this, you can leave the bag outside your door and Tammie will pick up these birthday bags and take them to Cornerstone.

**Southern New England wrote an article highlighting the Birthday Celebration Bags. Follow the link or type it into your search bar and you can read all about ECC's Board of Missions outreach.**

The article is published on the website for the Southern New England Conference, UCC at [www.sneucc.org/spotlight](http://www.sneucc.org/spotlight)



CHURCH MAIL

## Your impact is helping...

Tammie,

I wanted to send you a picture of a very happy mom, thanks to you and your mission. I have a couple more for next week whose children have a February birthday. I don't want to give them out too soon before the birthday so they don't get the urge to make the cakes during a craving. Lol This was a really great idea you all came up with. I will be writing a

message on my white board since this is new to our clients and they don't know what we are doing for them and their children. I think this also helps build family unity by having a small party with just the family in the home. Now that we are back to work after taking off a couple weeks, we can get back in the swing of things, weather permitting however.

Thank you,  
Christine Filanowicz  
Clothing Bank Etc. Director  
860-798-5026

**The last week of 2020 Women's Fellowship & Board of Missions each made a \$250 contribution to *hawkwing*, Inc.**

February 8, 2021

***Thank you for making a difference!***

***Together we are changing the lives and healing the hearts of the children, Elders and families of the Cheyenne River Lakota Tribe.***

*Thanks to the Ellington Congregational Church Family for all your continuing generosity. Prayers for all members and their families for good health.*

Rochelle  
*hawkwing*, Inc.

February 17, 2021

Ellington Congregational Church  
Board of Missions

From HVCC – Thank You for being with us in 2020, we wouldn't be here without you.

In this new year, we owe you our gratitude.

When 2020 hit us time and again with fear and uncertainty, you have been there.

You knew how important it was to protect this community from hunger, mental illness and substance abuse all while making sure everyone's basic needs were met.

HVCC remains hopeful that the new year will bring

support and unity like no other. Change has just begun and we are here to meet its challenges. With your support, we know we will succeed.

Thank you for your dedication,  
*David M. O'Rourke, CEO*

February 17, 2021

Dear Ellington Congregational Church Members,

Thank you so much for your very generous donation of Big Y gift cards and for the VISA gift card. That was so kind and thoughtful of you all. The recipients will be very thankful to receive these gifts.

We are very grateful for your continued support throughout the years, and your generosity is greatly appreciated. Thank you all so very much!

Sincerely,  
The Ellington Human Services Staff



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### Service People on Active Duty

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The following list contains people called to active duty. Please keep them and their families in your prayers. If you know of someone who should be on this list (or have a correction), please contact the church office at 860-871-6606 or [sec-eccucc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sec-eccucc@sbcglobal.net) Thank you.

**Full Name**                      **Submitted by**  
143<sup>rd</sup> Regional Support Group CT Army Nat'l  
Guard  
250<sup>th</sup> Engineering Battalion Army National Guard  
Allysson Belval  
Bill McDonald

- |                   |                          |
|-------------------|--------------------------|
| Chelsea Hinton    | Jay Walpole              |
| Chris Perrett     | Moriah Nutt              |
| Chris Saucier     |                          |
| Curtis Hany       | Patti & Mark Hany        |
| Damon Matus       |                          |
| Del Plato         |                          |
| Drew Blunt        |                          |
| Dylan LaMothe     | Joan McCarthy            |
| Eric              |                          |
| Ethan Parlante    | Carolyn Ladd             |
| Evan Peterson     |                          |
| Frankie Valentin  | Lucie Parisi             |
| Gary Feldman, Jr. |                          |
| Greg Fearnley     |                          |
| Ian Rivers        |                          |
| Jay O'Connor      | Dianne Durgan            |
| Jeremy Allen      | Jon & Lyn Allen          |
| Jessica Lannan    |                          |
| Jim               |                          |
| Jon Sanchez       | Dawn Stone               |
| Josh Long         | Karen McCarthy           |
| Josh Smidge       |                          |
| Justyn Manning    | Dawn Stone               |
| Kyle Ciesco       | Melissa Ciesco-Rolland   |
| Larry Oliver      |                          |
| Lewis Hursh       |                          |
| Matt Boulem       | Banks Family             |
| Nicole Walsh      |                          |
| Sean Belmont      | George & Marty Nickerson |
| Thomas Allen      | Lucie Parisi             |
| Tim Moynihan      | Victoria Liegl           |
| Zach Hazzard      | Jon Allen                |



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# Women's Fellowship News

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The Women's Fellowship of the Ellington Congregational Church is open to all members and friends of the church. We encourage you to participate in our organization.

“Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms.”

From The Message, 1 Peter 4:10

## Hello women of ECC,

Things are pretty much the same at church so no new programs. With the vaccines happening, maybe we can get active again soon.



So, my articles are mostly a cookbook. I am sharing a yummy green dessert that is perfect for St. Patrick's Day. When my kids were little, I took on the persona of 'Katherine O'Leary' and everything was green. I loved it. Not so sure they did. Here is the recipe for Pistachio Dessert.

## Pistachio Dessert

### Crust:

1½ cup Flour

1½ stick butter

½ cup Chopped walnuts (optional)

Mix and press in 9 x 13 pan. Bake at 375° in a pre-heated oven for 10 - 15 minutes.

### 1st layer:

1 8oz. bar Cream cheese

1 cup Sugar

6 oz. Cool Whip

Mix and spread on cooled crust.

### 2nd layer:

2 pkg. Instant Pistachio pudding

3 cups Cold milk

Beat and spread on the 1st layer. Add a little green coloring if desired.

### 3rd layer:

Spread on the rest of the Cool Whip.

Refrigerate and enjoy♣

Stay safe and blessings, *Susan Mason*

This month's zoom Executive Board meeting for Women's Fellowship is March 5<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm.



## hawkwing REMINDER:



Women's Fellowship collects **gently used clean coats** in good condition and new items for the Lakota people in South Dakota and the items are distributed through the efforts of *hawkwing*, a non-profit organization. Currently, please store these items in your home until the church building re-opens and at that time Jan Danforth will resume faithfully collecting and storing them until a truck ships out to the reservation. Our congregation has been extremely generous in their donations and

every donation makes a difference, so thanks! For additional information about this mission, the website is [www.hawkwing.org](http://www.hawkwing.org). You may also call Janet W. or Peg D. as they coordinate the *hawkwing* missions for ECC.



### Ellington Congregational Church Women's Fellowship Scholarship Application

The ECC Women's Fellowship is pleased to announce two \$500.00 scholarships for 2021 is available to any member of the Ellington Congregational Church who is beginning or continuing their education at an accredited institution. This would include trade or technical institutions also. The scholarships are funded by the Women's Fellowship.

The application should be typed in resume format and include the following:

- Name
- Address
- Email address, if available
- Phone number
- Activities
  - o School
  - o Within the church
  - o Within the community
  - o Employment history, if any
- An essay describing how being a member of Ellington Congregation Church has impacted your life and how you have impacted the church and your community
- A copy of proof of acceptance to an accredited institution or a copy of current college transcript
- A letter of reference from a member of Ellington Congregational Church

*Completed applications should be addressed to the*

*Women's Fellowship Scholarship Committee and mailed to PO Box 216 and to arrive on or before May 1 or submitted electronically to [sec-eccucc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sec-eccucc@sbcglobal.net) .*

**Application deadline is May 1, 2021**  
Late applications will not be accepted.

Women's Fellowship Scholarship Committee  
(revised 02/2021)



Some March-related weather lore includes:

*If March comes in like a lion, it will go out like a lamb.*

*A dry March and a wet May? Fill barns and bays with corn and hay.*

*As it rains in March, so it rains in June.*

*March winds and April showers? Bring forth May flowers.*

*So many mists in March you see, so many frosts in May will be.*



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# The Church Family News

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## BIRTHDAYS THIS MONTH

Mar. 1	Dottie Marshall
Mar. 1	Gregory Gale
Mar. 2	Dylan Ciesco
Mar. 3	Emma Banks
Mar. 4	Logan Terry
Mar. 4	Tessa Cloukey
Mar. 5	Rachael Akeley
Mar. 6	Ellen Panagrosso
Mar. 7	Courtney Binkowski
Mar. 9	Kevin Byam
Mar. 9	Lincoln Kozikowski
Mar. 10	Nancy Lombard
Mar. 11	Lisa Crocker
Mar. 13	Jason Tautkus
Mar. 14	Floyd Lackouskas
Mar. 15	Leslie Ledoux
Mar. 17	Elizabeth Leonard
Mar. 18	Maureen Palmer-Lavoie
Mar. 18	Sydney Gale
Mar. 21	Katia Meyer
Mar. 22	Michael Piotrowski
Mar. 24	Cole Tierinni
Mar. 25	Joan McCarthy
Mar. 28	Jack Savage
Mar. 28	Lesley Van Deventer
Mar. 30	Bill Conley, Jr.
Mar. 30	Cheryl Purnell
Mar. 31	Eric Dinse
Mar. 31	Matthew Dinse



Mar. 17 Claudia & Richard Steele



*To announce your special happenings, i.e., birth, engagement, wedding, graduation, or if you see that we do not have you acknowledged in the Birthday and/or Anniversary announcements, please call the church office or send an email.*

*Thank you!*



### PRAYER GROUP & PRAYER CIRCLE

The Prayer Group **prays at home for one hour every Tuesday at 10:00 a.m.** for people in need. If you need prayers for someone or would like to be included in the Prayer Circle, please let Dottie Marshall or the church office know.

**H**ospitalized  
since the last Caller



*Sharon Gluhosky*

If you go to the hospital and would like a phone visit by a Pastor...*Urgent Call Service* is available at all times by calling the church and listening to the answering machine as it provides instructions. (Please do not leave a message on the answering machine for emergency issues.)



## **CHURCH MAIL**

Dear Friends,

Thank you for graciously welcoming me into your faith community. God continues to work in mysterious ways! I am so grateful that God led me to you (or you to me as I, too, continue to learn and evolve in soul growth). You have supported me with prayer, lovely messages, watching the virtual services, coming to the church parking lot to receive ashes, patiently answering all my questions, joining the Lenten study group, and other ways too numerous to mention. We are blessed to be spreading God's Word together!

*Pastor Joanne*



*We give God thanks for  
the life of*

*Robert Blair*

*Betty Brodmerkel*

*Nancy Ludwig*

*John Marshall*

*Roland Schneider*



*Our sympathy is expressed to the families and  
friends of Betty, Bob, John, Nancy and Roland.*

*Blessed are those who mourn,  
for they will be comforted.  
(Matthew 5:4)*



REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

presented at the 2021 Annual Meeting

**Officers**

Moderator:	<u>Cathy Leonard</u>	Financial Secretaries:	<u>Pam Lombardo</u>
Asst. Moderator:	_____		<u>Janice Schaeffer</u>
Clerk:	<u>Betsy Cottle</u>	SS Assistant:	_____
Asst. Clerk:	*	SS Financial Secretary:	<u>Scott Noble</u>
Treasurer:	<u>Wade Overgaard</u>	Historian:	*
Asst. Treasurer:	<u>Lori Savino</u>	Asst. Historian:	<u>Deborah Wallace</u>
Auditor:	<u>Karen Conley</u>	“Shadow Asst. Treasurer”	<u>Heather Spencer</u>

With thanks to those who have completed their term of service or who have retired:

**Deacons**

<b>Term Extension</b>	<b><u>Basil Stone</u></b>		<b>2021</b>
Andrew Koehnke	2021	*	2023
*Brian Wright	2021	*	2023
*	2022	<u>Matthew Mangold</u>	2024
*	2022	<u>David Feindel</u>	2024

With thanks to those who have completed their term of service:

Basil Stone	2020	David Redekas	2020
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**Deaconesses**

Dawn Stone	2021	Dottie Marshall	2023
Beth Tautkus	2021	Joann Scott**	2023
Marcia Hesse	2022	<u>Laurie Hazleton</u>	2024
*Alice Sprowles	2022	<u>Jane Scordato</u>	2024

With thanks to those who have completed their term of service:

*Laurie Hazleton**	2020	Sharon Gluhosky	2020
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**Missions**

<b>Term Extension</b>	<b><u>Janice Schaeffer</u></b>	<b><u>Dottie Marshall</u></b>	<b>2021</b>
*Dianne Durgan	2021	Susanne Hannigan	2022
*Tammie Mangold	2021	_____	2023
Elaine Duckett	2022	_____	2023

With thanks to those who have completed their term of service:

Janice Schaeffer	2020	Dottie Marshall	2020
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## Board of Christian Education

<b>Term Extension</b>	<b><u>Kate Milheiro</u></b>	<b>2021</b>
Jennifer Traynor	2021	* <u>Lisa Sirag</u> 2022
Mary Iovine	2021	<u>Joy Cloukey</u> 2023
Linda Redekas	2021	_____ 2023
Leslie Ledoux	2022	_____ 2023
Deanna Piotrowski	2022	
<u>With thanks to those who have completed their term of service:</u>		
Charity West	2020	Kate Milheiro 2020
*Gary Duckett**	2020	

## Board of Trustees

*Sharon McLaughlin	2021	Chas Gross 2022
*Scott Noble	2021	<u>John Bellezza</u> 2023
Robin Miller	2022	<u>Karen Johnson</u> 2023
<u>With thanks to those who have completed their term of service:</u>		
Duane Van Deventer	2020	Mike Scott 2020

## Stewardship Committee

Bryan Forst	2021	* _____ 2022
* <u>Penny Gates(TE)</u>	2021	<u>Cassie Soucy</u> 2023
Jol Sprowles	2022	_____ 2023
<u>With thanks to those who have completed their term of service:</u>		
Richard Steele	2020	Penny Gates 2020

## Music Committee

<b>Term Extension</b>	<b><u>Dave Robert</u></b>	<b>2021</b>
Patti Hany	2021	Claudia Eberly 2022
Tom Mason	2021	_____ 2023
Nora Chapman	2022	_____ 2023
<u>With thanks to those who have completed their term of service:</u>		
Dave Robert	2020	Judy Vigneau 2020

## Memorial Committee

<b>Term Extension</b>	<b><u>Cynthia Morton</u></b>	<b>2021</b>
*Jean Luddy	2021	Heather Spencer 2024
Joyce Jordan	2022	_____ 2025
Helen "Bunny" Donohue	2023	
<u>With thanks to those who have completed their term of service:</u>		
Cynthia Morton	2020	

**Christian Growth and Nurture**

Allie McKeegan	2021	Jeff McAvoy	2022
* <u>Collette Aldrich(TE)</u>	2021	_____	2023
Beth Cocuzzo	2022	_____	2023
<u>With thanks to those who have completed their term of service:</u>			
Colette Aldrich	2020	*Janet Wieliczka**	2020

**Board of Ushers**

<b>Term Extension</b>	<b>Jol Sprowles</b>		<b>2021</b>
BJ Aldrich	2021	*	2022
*	2021	_____	Cheryl Purnell 2022
Heather Spencer	2021	_____	Dottie Marshall 2022
Curtis McKeegan	2021	_____	2023
Mark Gluhosky	2021	_____	2023
*Melissa/Todd Rolland	2021	_____	2023
Fred Bird	2022	_____	2023
Ingrid Royle	2022	_____	2023
Kathi Peterson	2022	_____	2023
<u>With thanks to those who have completed their term of service:</u>			
Jol Sprowles	2020	Bryan Forst	2020
Cassie Soucy	2020	*Amy Zander	2020
Paul/Kate Milheiro	2020	*	2020

**SUBSTITUTES**

Dottie Marshall	Ingrid Royle	Robin Miller	Marsha & John Andzans
Dan Parisi	Claudia Steele	Brian Cocuzzo	David Danforth
Amy Zander	Chas Gross	Bob Russell	Elaine Duckett

**Appointed to 1 year terms by Moderator**

CT Conference & Tolland Assoc. Reps	2021	<u>Scott Noble</u>	<u>Betsy Cottle</u>
<u>With thanks to those who have completed their term of service:</u>			
CT Conference & Tolland Assoc. Reps	2020	Scott Noble	Betsy Cottle

**Nominating Committee**

With thanks to those who have completed their term of service:

Alice Sprowles      Deanna Piotrowski

\* = Unexpired Term

Underlined = Person elected this meeting

\*\* = Appointed to fill term after Annual Meeting

# Faith Formation News

## (Sunday School, S.E.E.D., Confirmation & TELOS)

### Church school news!

Families were provided with Lenten activity kits. These included supplies to create a 40-day walk with Jesus, yeast and a recipe for baking soft pretzels, and materials for a meaningful Ash Wednesday ritual: dissolving what weighs heavy on our hearts and holding on to God's love which endures forever.

19 children in preschool through 5<sup>th</sup> grade continue to meet virtually.

Preschool-2<sup>nd</sup> grade: Teachers and children have discussed: God's love, Jesus calling his first disciples, and Valentine's Day. Children heard the stories *My Valentine Story*, *If Jesus Lived Inside My Heart*, and *If Jesus Came to Visit Me*. Children have used supplies they have been provided to create a picture of fish and nets used to catch them, Valentine cards, and a mosaic cross. Each class ends with the Lord's Prayer.

3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade: Teachers and children discussed discipleship, God's love, and the power of prayer. Children made prayer journals and other crafts. Each week the class shares a time of prayer.

### S.E.E.D. youth group:

Students Encounter and Experience Discipleship

This group of 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> graders continue to meet virtually twice a month. After sharing the week's high and low points, discussions have been had and games played.

### T.E.L.O.S. youth group:

Teens Experience Living Out the Story



The TELOSians have continued to meet virtually sharing their week's high and low points and God Moments they've experienced. Meaningful discussions have been had and games played.

Scrip is a year-round T.E.L.O.S. fundraiser!

Support T.E.L.O.S. by buying gift cards from your favorite brands to use for your daily purchases or to give as gifts!

Visit <https://www.shopwithscrip.com/> to join our fundraising program! The enrollment code for T.E.L.O.S. is

**C78D75DA67998**

Contact Lee Carman or Linda Redekas if you'd prefer to order by paying with a check.

## T.E.L.O.S. Scrip Gift Card Fundraiser



Order gift cards online or through our Scrip reps!  
Pay face value for the gift cards you'd like to order.

Pay online on the Scrip website  
using our enrollment code: C78D75DA67998 OR  
Pay by check (payable to T.E.L.O.S.). Once the check clears, a ECC  
Scrip rep will place the order.

Here are some of the merchants that you can purchase gift cards for:

99 Restaurants (\$25)	Exxon (\$50)	PetSmart (\$25)
Ace Hardware (\$25, \$100)	Five Below (\$25)	Pottery Barn (\$25, \$100)
Advance Auto Parts (\$25, \$100)	Foot Locker (\$25)	Red Robin (\$25)
Amazon.com (\$10, \$25, \$100)	GameStop (\$25)	Shell (\$25, \$50)
AutoZone (\$25)	Great Harvest Bread (\$10)	ShopRite (\$25, \$100)
Barnes & Noble (\$5, \$10, \$25, 100)	Home Depot® (\$10, \$25, \$100)	Sonic (\$10, \$25)
Bath & Body Works (\$10, \$25)	HomeGoods (\$25, \$100)	Staples (\$25, \$100)
Bed Bath & Beyond (\$25, \$100)	IHOP (\$10, \$25)	Starbucks (\$5, \$10, \$25)
Best Buy (\$25, \$100)	JCPenney (\$25, \$100)	Stop & Shop (NOT TOPS) (\$100)
Buffalo Wild Wings® (\$10, \$25)	Jiffy Lube (\$30)	Subway Restaurants (\$10, \$50)
Build-A-Bear Workshop (\$25)	Jo-Ann Fabric & Craft Stores (\$25)	Sunoco (\$50)
Burlington (\$25)	Kohl's (\$25, \$100)	SweetFrog (\$10)
Cabela's (\$25, \$100)	L.L.Bean (\$25, \$100)	T.J. Maxx (\$25, \$100)
Chili's Grill & Bar (\$25, \$50)	Lowe's (\$20, \$25, \$100)	Taco Bell (\$5, \$10, \$25)
Chipotle Mexican Grill (\$10, \$25)	Marshalls (\$25, \$100)	Target (\$10, \$25, \$50, \$100)
Cracker Barrel (\$10, \$25)	Men's Wearhouse (\$25)	Texas Roadhouse (\$25, \$100)
CVS Pharmacy (\$10, \$25, \$100)	Mobil (\$50)	TGI Fridays (\$25)
Dick's Sporting Goods (\$25, \$100)	Moe's Southwest Grill (\$25)	Total Wine & More (\$25, \$100)
Domino's (\$10, \$25)	Old Navy (\$25, \$100)	Walgreens (\$25, \$100)
DSW (\$25, \$100)	Olive Garden (\$10, \$25, \$100)	Walmart (\$10, \$25, \$50, \$100)
Dunkin' Donuts (\$10, \$25)	Panera Bread (\$5, \$10, \$25)	Wendy's (\$10)

Check out the complete list of merchants at: <https://shop.shopwithscrip.com/Shop/Product/Browse>  
then click on "retailer lists" on the left hand side.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Gift cards and denominations ordering:

1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_ 3. \_\_\_\_\_

Total enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (Make checks payable to T.E.L.O.S.)

Mail to ECC (Attn: Lee Carman/TELOS), P.O. Box 216, Ellington, CT 06029

# eGiving at ECC!

There are more ways to give



Mobile Giving



Online Giving



Kiosk Giving



Cash / Check

**#1 - Give on our Kiosk web site:** The easiest way to use eGiving is by using your phone's camera to scan the QR Bar Code shown here to directly access the Ellington Congregational Church giving site. No setup or giving account is needed!

Or you can simply type the link below in your phone or computer web browser. Again, the address will take you directly to the ECC giving site.

<https://tithe.ly/give/?c=1017938&k=1>

**#2 - Give in the Mobile App:** Download the Tithe.ly App from the [App Store](#) (iPhone) or [Google Play Store](#) (Android). **Just make sure to select the GREEN app** (not blue), otherwise you won't be able to find our church in the list. Once you've downloaded the app, create an account or log in, locate our church, and tap "Give Now" to complete your gift!



**#3 - Give Online:** Online giving is now live on our church web site! If you're on a computer (or any device connected to the internet), you can easily give to ECC by heading to our church web page [www.eccucc.org](http://www.eccucc.org) and pressing the **Give** button located in the top right hand corner of the home page or about half way down click on **Make Your Offering**.

**#4 - Give by check or cash:** Or simply continue giving the way you have always have, by check or cash and mail to PO Box 216 Ellington, CT 06029

**Is eGiving secure?** Yes! All financial information is encrypted and stored by Tithe.ly's banking partner to PCI DSS Level 1 compliant standards. It is the **highest possible rating** one can get in the electronic payment processing industry. Absolutely none of your credit card or banking information is seen or stored by ECC. Please contact Bryan Forst or Wade Overgaard if you have any questions.

THE CHURCH CALLER  
Ellington Congregational Church  
United Church of Christ  
P.O. Box 216  
Ellington, CT 06029-0216

NONPROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
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(TIME VALUE MARCH 1, 2021)

## HIGHLIGHTS

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Greetings from the Intentional Interim Minister p. 2  
A Lenten Project & Practice p. 2 – 3  
Lenten Study p. 3  
Re-Opening Team Update p. 4  
Resolution of Gratitude p. 4 – 5  
From the Diaconate p. 6  
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Prayer Shawl and Growth & Nurture p. 8  
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March Calendar p. 22  
Lent – Fast – Pray – Give Food Drive p. 23

♣ ♣ *Happy St. Patrick's Day* ♣ ♣

## CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Joanne Myer, Intentional Interim Minister  
Esther Pezzella, Director of Music  
Lee Carman, Director of Faith Formation  
Jill McAllister, Outreach & Media Coordinator  
Leigh Lezotte, Church Secretary

## OFFICE HOURS

8:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M. (Monday - Friday)  
CLOSED HOLIDAYS

**SUNDAY VIRTUAL WORSHIP IS AT 10:00 A.M.**

## HOW TO CONTACT THE CHURCH

Office & Answering Machine: 860-871-6606  
Fax: 860-871-5932

[Sec-eccucc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Sec-eccucc@sbcglobal.net)

Web Site: [www.eccucc.org](http://www.eccucc.org)

## Mission Statement

**Ellington Congregational Church**  
**United Church of Christ**

*To be a dynamic and nurturing community*

*called by God's grace*

*to know Christ and make Him known*

*through worship, love and service.*

Adopted September 15, 2019