



# The Church Caller

A monthly publication of Ellington Congregational Church

September 2021

**SUNDAY 10:00 A.M.  
WORSHIP SERVICES**

**In-Person & Virtual**

**PREACHING:**

**REVEREND JOANNE MYER**

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 5<sup>TH</sup>  
FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER  
PENTECOST**

**LAY LED BY CASSIE MILLER**

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 12<sup>TH</sup>  
SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER  
PENTECOST**

**SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION**

**RALLY SUNDAY**

**FAITH FORMATION SUNDAY**

**ALL CHURCH PICNIC**

**PROVERBS 1:20-33**

**WISDOM OF SOLOMON 7:26-8:1**

**JAMES 3:1-12**

**“THE ART OF BLESSING”**

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 19<sup>TH</sup>  
SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER  
PENTECOST**

**JUST PEACE SUNDAY**

**INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE**

**ZOOM CONGREGATIONAL MEETING-  
NOON**

**PSALM 1**

**JAMES 3:13-4:3, 7-8A**

**“GOD CALLS US TO PEACE”**

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 26<sup>TH</sup>  
EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER  
PENTECOST**

**AMERICAN INDIAN MINISTRY**

**SUNDAY**

**FRONT LAWN & VIRTUAL SERVICE**

**PSALM 124**

**ESTHER 7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22**

**“ESTHER: A VIGNETTE”**

**(BASED ON CHAPTERS 1-10)**

*All Church Offices are closed,  
Monday, September 6<sup>th</sup>  
in observance of Labor Day.*

**ECC  
RALLY DAY  
ALL CHURCH PICNIC**

**Sept 12 11:00 Arbor Park**

**BYO EVERYTHING!**  
**Food/blanket/chairs/plates ...**

**Drinks provided by BCE**

**Rain Date  
9/26**

*Greetings from the  
Intentional  
Interim  
Minister...*



Our Board of Stewardship members: Bryan Forst, chair, Jol Sprowles, Penny Gates, and Cassie Soucy, with Joanne Myer as intentional interim senior pastor, have been meeting to plan the fall stewardship campaign.

Stewardship is about so much more than just thinking of money! **DISCIPLESHIP** and **STEWARDSHIP** go hand in hand. Yes, treasure is involved, **but it is how we think about that treasure**, along with **time** and **talent** that makes stewardship **a part of our spirituality**.

Since July 25<sup>th</sup>, Stewardship Committee members have been sharing ideas with us concerning what Stewardship is about. When seen as Discipleship, Stewardship is very important to all the work of the church. Being a good steward fuels and helps to make discipleship possible.

**Here is what has been shared so far. While deciding on what and how to give, please read these stewardship offerings again and again.**

**Cassie Miller (Soucy)**

“Remember that the apostle Paul thought of *Stewards* as servants who were entrusted with the oversight or managing of household resources. Our faith calls us to take care how we distribute our time, talent, and treasures to serve God, his people, and the earth.”

**Cassie Miller (Soucy)**

Jesus spent much of his ministry teaching about how we ought to live. If we take time to understand his teachings on stewardship in the Bible, it can change how we manage our time, money, possessions, and relationships.

Principles from stewardship Bible verses:

**1. Everything Was Created by God**  
*In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Genesis 1:1*

**2. Everything Belongs to the Lord**  
*The earth is the Lord's, and Everything in it—the world, and all who live in it. Psalm 24:1*

**3. God has Called Everyone to be Good Stewards**  
*Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. 1 Peter 4:10*

**4. Christian Stewardship can Result in Growth**  
*Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. 2 Corinthians 9:6*

**5. We Will be Held Accountable for Our Stewardship**  
*"Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!" Matthew 25:23*

**6. Good Stewardship will be Rewarded**  
*Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving. Colossians 3:23-24*

Many Christians today associate Stewardship with tithing or making donations but, as you can see, Biblical Stewardship goes much, much deeper than that.

## Jol Sprowles

The Stewardship Committee has done for ECC more than just marketing of pledges. We plan and carry out an Annual Thanksgiving Food Drive. The Thanksgiving Food Drive went so well that this year we combined with the Board of Missions for the Easter Food Drive.

A few years ago a successful program with Todd and Melissa on managing finances. Several folks found it quite helpful.

There were also programs presented by Thrivent on dealing with giving and financial wisdom.

Several times Clowns have added variety to services.

Stewardship goes hand in hand with discipleship and nourishment. Stewardship is not just about giving money.

Remember that Paul thought of "Stewards" as servants who were entrusted with the oversight or managing of household resources. Our faith calls us to take care how we distribute our time, talent, and treasure to serve God, his people, and the earth.

When we join our church we are disciples; it is part of our discipleship to care for each other, for whatever people we can, and for the world, we live in. We are a group of stewards, and so much more can be done by the group of us. The more we grow in our participation, the more good can be done.

Being stewards nourishes our spiritual growth. We are nurturing others physically and spiritually, giving food and clothing and financial assistance as we can. The folks who receive can realize why and in whose name we do these things, for their own spiritual benefit. **It feels good to be an active steward.**

For many of us our first thought about stewardship is about how much we can help the church's budget grow. There is another budget that needs attention - time needs to be invested in keeping the church

effective, and there are too few members trying to fill those needs by stretching their own time budgets. Helping on committees is not a burdensome commitment and working on them is a sociable way to get things done and to know better your fellow members. Some people are working on more than two committees, and it would be a blessing if more of us would share in the fun.

I close with a functional announcement. There is now in the pews a card that tells of four ways in which you can donate toward your pledge and to other causes. It is intended to stay in the pews, like the Bibles and hymnbooks and picture books. We hope it is helpful.

## Bryan Forst

"Don't judge each day by the harvest you reap, but by the seeds you plant."

- Robert Louis Stevenson (1850 – 1894), author.

Stewardship can be seen as nourishment, not only to the church we love, but for ourselves as well. Sowing the seeds of Christian spirit and growth sows the bounty of our future and our well-being as Christian stewards. It is about caring for something you believe in, and for something, you love and cherish.

"The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. The second-best time is now."

Chinese Proverb

## Penny Gates

As Christians, we are all stewards of God. In the parable of talents (Matt 25:14-30) each slave was entrusted with something, to one five talents and another two talents, to use in service of the master. Each of the two were praised and rewarded equally, not based on what they were given but what they did with what they were given. To compare oneself with another must be resisted because comparison is the basis of dissatisfaction. All of us have been given something, but what is important to God is the faithfulness to what he has given us and what

we are called to do in serving Him. (Luke 12:42)

Stewardship and Discipleship are so important to our relationship with God through Christ Jesus that, as I said before: **while deciding on what and how to give, please read these stewardship offerings again and again.**

Your Sister in Christ,

*Pastor Joanne*



**RALLY SUNDAY**

**Sunday, September 12, 2021**

**10:00 a.m.**

Virtual & In-Person

**FAITH FORMATION SUNDAY**

**Sunday, September 12, 2021**

- Zoom 9-9:45 am
- In-person 10 am



*From the Moderator...*

**CALL TO A  
CONGREGATIONAL  
MEETING**



of the  
Ellington  
Congregational  
Church  
United Church of  
Christ

**Sunday, September 19, 2021**

**Noon**

***On-line via Zoom with  
telephone call-in capability.***

You are hereby notified the purpose of the congregational meeting is:

- To vote on the By-Laws Proposal which suggests temporary suspensions and modifications of some clauses that relate to term limits, # of members, the “year off” between terms, as well as provides for the Moderator to appoint two assistants.

**PLEASE PLAN TO VIRTUALLY  
ATTEND**

Links, phone numbers and instructions will arrive through a 1<sup>st</sup> Class mailing.

## Re-Opening Team Update

**“But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere.”**

**James 3:17 (NIV)**

These days are certainly fluid and changing, as we appear to be facing another surge with COVID. One model is predicting the surge to peak in mid-October. The Re-Opening Team has spent and continues to spend many, many hours discerning what the right thing to do is regarding protocols, and how to reopen the church safely. As you can imagine, there are almost as many opinions as people in our church. Some have felt that we have been moving too slowly from the beginning, while others think we are too lax. It is a balancing act for us as we do our very best to continually monitor, checking with several sources, and pray for wisdom and discernment in our decision-making. We have believed from Day One that we do not have to be leading the parade in terms of opening quickly. We take the risk and pandemic very seriously.

As we do our best, there is also the element of personal responsibility. The only way to insure being 100% risk-free is to close everything down, completely. We do not believe that option is in the best interest of our church at this point, so each of us needs to take personal responsibility for our own level of risk and risk-aversion.

In the meantime, we monitor what is happening in CT and Ellington. We feel that they are the very best areas upon which to focus, which has also been the way that government officials have been making decisions for their local areas. Again, we review CDC guidance, State of CT guidance, the limited information provided by the UCC conferences, and other churches, groups, and town protocols locally.

As the COVID numbers continue to increase, protocols are changing again. **At this point, we are requiring masking again for everyone inside, vaccinated or not.** This has been the new recommendation from the CDC plus the State of CT Department of Health, and given the increased numbers of hospitalizations, cases, and deaths,

including another death in Ellington due to COVID, we believe we need to go back to everyone being masked.

Current Protocols - Mask Requirements:

1. Masks will continue to be required for all indoor services, programs and guests of the church, including children age 2 and older **for everyone.**
2. Children under the age of 2 are exempted from mask rules.
3. As per State of CT mask mandates, **masks are not required outside** but an option when gathering in larger groups.

Back to Outdoor Fellowship Hour:

ECC will be offering Fellowship Hour again back outside, weather permitting. We enjoyed our short few times in the Social Room, but with the delta variant being so contagious; we are no longer eating or drinking together in the Social Room. Please be conscious of social distancing in the sanctuary, too and when gathering.

Virtual meetings will continue being offered indefinitely and are still encouraged. Please contact the church office to reserve a room for meeting at [sec-eccucc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sec-eccucc@sbcglobal.net)

Virtual worship will also continue being offered. Contact us at [reopening@eccucc.org](mailto:reopening@eccucc.org)

Stay tuned. We are hoping for regular communion in October, but it depends upon how things are going with the COVID issues. In the meantime, the Bibles, Hymnals and pictorial directories remain in the pews. As of this writing (August 19), we plan to continue with the Offertory, and the food shopping cart pushed down the aisles. Any changes will be communicated through the bulletin. (Please keep in mind that there is about a two-week lag time from submitting our article to distributing the *Caller*.)

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



## **TRUSTEES** **CORNER**

**“And whatever you do, in word or deed,  
do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus,  
giving thanks to God the Father,  
through Him.”**

**Colossians 3:17 (ESV)**

Every month there is the regular ongoing maintenance of the church, plus the yearly calendar with a variety of items to do each month. Every single month, Robin checks the emergency lights and batteries, the results of which are also recorded. We had a special extra meeting toward the end of July with a vendor to investigate a keyless entry system for the church. In August Karen contacted a reference church to see how the keyless process was working for them and received positive feedback. Stay tuned. Thank you Robin and Karen!

We also work on updated or contract renewals as needed. The Trustees recently renewed our contract with *Encore*, which services our fire extinguishers and the fire suppression system in the kitchen.

As per our Master Calendar, we reviewed the church usage policy to be distributed to the various outside groups, such as the Boy Scouts, who regularly use our church building.

Fire Door replacement will be an ongoing project to bring these items up to current codes as ordered by the Town Fire Marshall. One area of concern is the Tower Room and the multitude of things stored up there, including silk flowers and empty boxes. Each committee needs to send a representative to review what is theirs and clearly identify what needs to be stored, and remove items that can be discarded. **Items not clearly marked as still needed, will be discarded after October 1, 2021.**

The Trustees have agreed to replace the roof over

the sanctuary. This project will include all new flashing around the base of the steeple. The work will take about a week (weather permitting) and will be performed in late September at the earliest.

Zoom meetings will continue being offered as an alternative to meeting in-person at the church. For those using Room 201 to meet, the window air-conditioner has been installed. However, as you are most likely aware, masks are again being required inside the church building

Thank you to Women’s Fellowship and their Kitchen Team for the cleaning out and paying for the cleaning of our kitchen by a commercial cleaner.

The Re-Opening Team continues to report to the Prudential Committee and to the Trustees. The current protocols are listed in the article by the Re-Opening Team.

Blessings,

Chas Gross, Chair of Trustees



### **From the Diaconate**

**“The best laid schemes o’ mice an’ men  
gang aft a-gley...”**

From “To a Mouse” by Robert Burns

The above phrase is from the 1785 poem written by Scottish poet, Robert Burns. It expresses the speakers sorrow after his plow accidentally destroyed a mouse’s nest. The phrase aptly describes what the last year and a half has been like! For every plan we make, the pandemic has run a plow through it.

This brings me to our communion that was scheduled for September. It was supposed to be a “back to normal (almost)” communion with the silver communion service set; HOWEVER, as has

happened so many times recently, the pandemic has altered our best laid schemes. As you saw in the reopening article, we've taken a step back from our forward movement in opening up the church. September communion will use the small chalice goblets that we started back in April of 2021. We will continue to use them until such time as it is safe of begin using the silver service. That time will come, we just don't know when. We pray for the safety of everyone and that is the driving force behind our communion serving method.

Also September's communion will have a slightly different look also. We will be serving communion on September 12<sup>th</sup>, Rally Sunday! September 5<sup>th</sup> will be a lay led worship Sunday since Rev. Joanne will be on vacation. Although lay leaders can lead worship, perform baptisms, marriages and funerals, lay leaders cannot provide a communion service. That requires ordained clergy. How inspiring to serve communion to all our church school students as they return for another year furthering their faith formation.

As each communion Sunday comes up, diaconate, along with the reopening team, will evaluate communion service method. We will get back to "normal" but it is going to take patience and prayers.

Peace and blessings,  
Dawn Stone, for the Diaconate



### **OUTDOOR SERVICE ~ September 26 -**

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

- *Bring your own chair or blanket and allow for respectful distancing.*
- *If needed masks and hand sanitizer available.*

*In case of inclement weather, the service will be moved to the sanctuary and indoor protocols followed.*

## **REMINDER:**

### **OCTOBER CALLER**

#### **DEADLINE SEPTEMBER 15<sup>th</sup>**

Please- electronic word document as an attachment or email your information within the body to: [sec-eccucc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sec-eccucc@sbcglobal.net) by the 15<sup>th</sup>.

Thank you!

### **Bulletin Announcements are Due Tuesday of Each Week.**

#### **Prayer Shawl Ministry**



The Prayer Shawl Ministry will plan to meet on Thursday, September 23, 2021 at 9:30 a.m. in the social room.

We will have to follow the recommendations from the Connecticut Department of Health and the church regulations about wearing masks.

Prayer shawls and lap robes for men and women are available in the room off the Narthex. Please help yourself.

If you have any questions or need the basic easy pattern, please call Jan Starkweather at 860-875-1543.

### **Modified Fellowship / Coffee - Outdoors Only**

As of this writing (August 15) we need help bringing a cart with bottled water, snacks and juice boxes outside. It is not very difficult to manage - there will not be coffee until we are back in the Social Room.

This is the best hospitality we can offer under the latest COVID restrictions, as we are not eating in the Social Room at this time. Please contact the church office if you can help. We need people to take turns for the end of September and October, weather permitting. Thanks in advance for your service.



We are planning the first time meeting to be back together on Tuesday September 7th at 1:00 p.m.

We are very excited to be meeting with everyone again. Anyone that would like to join us is invited to come.

Our first meeting will be an important discussion and planning session about what the class has been and what you want to accomplish this year.

Hope to see you all again,

Best Wishes,  
Dianne Durgan

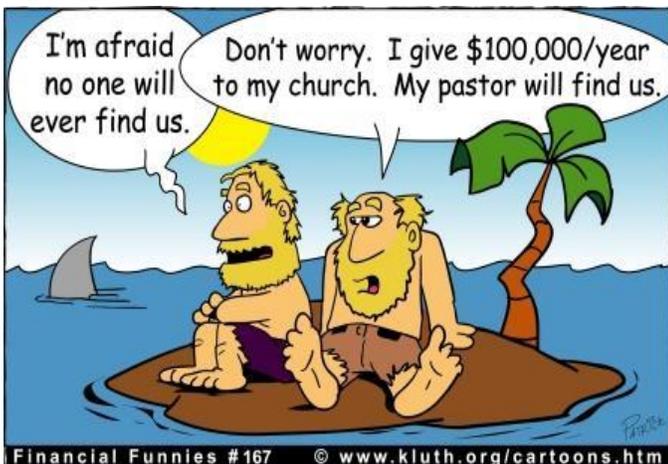


*Your pledge makes a difference.  
Thank you so very much.*

## Stewardship

**PLEASE** remember when paying your offering by check to write your envelope/giving number on the **memo line**. Thank you.

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



# eGiving at ECC



**#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 ECC 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:

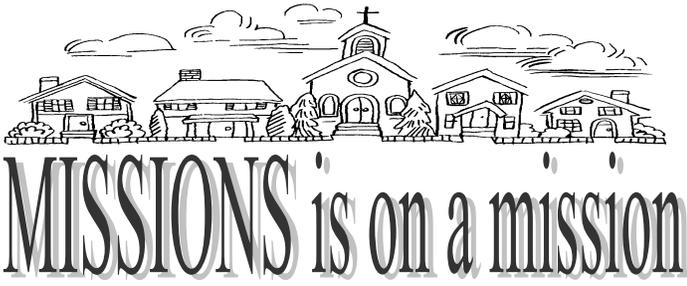
<https://tithe.ly/give/?c=1017938&k=1>

**#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 giving!

**#3 - Give Online: Online giving is 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**-simply continue giving the way you have always have, by check or cash. Check made payable to ECC. Offering number noted on the MEMO LINE – PLEASE.

**Is eGiving secure and safe?** 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.



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

**Sue's Cupboard Quip:**

“Make each day your masterpiece.”  
John Wooden, former UCLA Bruins  
head basketball coach

**What Missions Accomplished in August:**

Contributed/donated:

- 20 backpacks to Maple Street School.



- 26 lbs. of ground beef to Cornerstone Soup Kitchen.
- Cleaning supplies and toiletries to Cornerstone New Hope Shelter.
- Gift cards to Vernon Social Services towards ‘Back to School’ clothing.
- Samaritans Purse.
- Operation Heal Our Patriots.



**FOOD BANK --  
SHOPPING CART  
REQUEST  
FOR THE MONTH OF  
*September*  
**MOST NEEDED ITEMS****

- Hot & Cold Cereals
- Canned Pasta
- Spaghetti Sauce – **NO GLASS**
- Canned Soup
- Canned baked beans or pork & beans
- Rice-a-Roni, Pasta Roni, or
- Knorr Side Dishes
- Instant Soup Mix
- Canned Fruit

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

**THANK YOU!**

**Happy Birthday Celebrations!**



The Board of Missions invites us to do something 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. Why not thank God for your birthday, with preparing a birthday celebration bag. **If you are able, please supply the bag, cake mix & frosting, party themed: paper plates; paper napkins; paper/plastic tablecloth; plastic cutlery and candles. Optional: party hats and some decorations.**

The following notes were received over the summer and are posted on the Board of Missions board in the back hallway.

### **Your impact is helping...**

Dear Board of Missions Members,

Thank you all so much for the very generous Big Y gift card donation. That was so kind and thoughtful. We are very grateful for your continued support, and your generosity is greatly appreciated. Thank you all so very much!!

Sincerely,  
The Ellington Human Services Staff

(Shortened version from original)

Thank you for the Board of Missions generous \$250 gift to Hands On Hartford. Your donation make a world of difference to our Hartford neighbors.

We are delighted to use your gift to support the South Marshall Block Party this summer, a wonderful family event in which we participate every year, where we both share information about the service s we provide and also bring special treat or activity for the kids in attendance. You are a part of the broad network of Hands On Hartford friends, pooling resources, time and talent to keep our community strong. You bring hope when hope is most needed and we are honored to have your partnership in this work.

With warmest regards,  
Barbara A. Shaw, LCSW  
Executive Director

(Shortened version from original)

Thank you for contributing to HVCC's Campaign for a Brighter 2021. With your contribution of 46 pounds of assorted food, you have helped brighten the lives of others in our community. Every day our community works to eliminate hunger, to treat mental illness and addiction, and to provide transportation to our elderly and disabled residents. You are the ones who make that possible. Every bag

of food given out in 2021, every counseling session, every ride to a doctor's appointment, is all thanks to you. As we begin to reopen our communities, you recognized a need for change. There will still be need for donors like yourself to support your community even after the pandemic is a distant memory.

Thank you for joining HVCC in our campaign to make 2021 a better year for us all. With you standing by our side, there is no limit to our ability to make positive change in our community. Here is hoping for a bright 2021 for you and your loved ones.

From everyone at HVCC, thank you again for your support.

Sincerely,  
David M. O'Rourke  
Chief Executive Officer

(Shortened version from original)

Because of your gift of \$500.00 to Silver Lake ropes course we received on August 1, we will be able to continue to offer faith exploration and spiritual renewal for the thousands of people who participate in summer camp programs and retreats each year....

We are so grateful and proud to count you as one of the "Lakers" who believe in this special ministry of changing lives, embracing the outdoors, becoming active stewards of our planet, and joining us in "Loving God, Loving Our Neighbor, Loving Yourself, and Loving Creation." Blessings to you and thank you for ensuring our young people continue to have a place where they can be "their true selves."

In gratitude,  
Rev. Ryan Gackenheimer  
Executive Director



Larry Oliver  
 Lewis Hursh  
 Matt Boulem  
 Nick Audette  
 Nicole Walsh  
 Sean Belmont  
 Thomas Allen  
 Tim Moynihan  
 Zach Hazzard

Banks Family  
 Dawn & Basil Stone

George & Marty Nickerson  
 Lucie Parisi  
 Victoria Liegl  
 Jon Allen

**Honorable Discharge & Home Safe**

Kyle Ciesco

Melissa & Todd Rolland

**Service People on Active Duty**

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 or status update: home safe, deployed, honorable discharge, retired, etc.), 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

Jessica Lannan

Jim

Jon Sanchez

Dawn Stone

Josh Long

Karen McCarthy

Josh Smidge

Justyn Manning

Dawn Stone



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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

*Dear Women of ECC,*

I hope you made time for some relaxation over the summer months. As we move into the autumn season, we continue planning for activities. We hope our plans are not stifled by the pandemic. We are looking forward to our Farmhouse Fair which is scheduled for November 5 and 6 this year. We are very grateful for the work of Farmhouse Fair Chair, Vivian Hary and all of her committee chairs and workers. This is Vivian's last year chairing the Fair, so we are also looking ahead for her replacement for 2022.

Thank you to everyone who helped clear out and clean up our kitchen. Kitchen Chair Laurie Hazleton assembled a kitchen clear-out team including Laurie Hazleton, Janice Schaeffer, Scott Noble, Richard Steele, Roxanne, Marcia Hesse, Joyce Jordan and Janet Wieliczka. They spent a few hours cleaning out unneeded clutter or duplicates. Scott and Richard ran all the dishes through the dishwasher. Then two days later Joann Scott met the commercial cleaners at the church, having removed what needed to be out of the kitchen and pantry with her two nieces the night before. The day after the commercial cleaning, Joann replaced everything that had been removed. Wow! Thank you all for completing that huge job! Women's Fellowship paid for the commercial cleaning of the kitchen, which was just under \$1,200.

As of this writing, we are looking forward to the celebration of Esther Pezzella, scheduled for August 29, 2021 following our church service. Esther brought so much love and joy to our church through her musical gifts! We have been truly blessed as a

church to have enjoyed her talents for 30 years. Thank you, so very much, Esther.



## Save the Date!

On Tuesday, September 28, 2021, Brian Cocuzzo will be presenting a program about cyber-theft and computer safety. Please join us! **This program is open to the entire church** and will begin at 7:00 p.m. Please watch the bulletin for more details on how to sign up.

We are offering two links to Apple Crisp recipes -

Apple recipes are perfect for September.



The first one is a link for a family-size apple crisp (and you can see in the link name that it is from Betty Crocker):

<https://www.bettycrocker.com/recipes/best-apple-crisp/3715a45c-3c00-430c-bbe2-9865f9013238>

The second link is for apple crisp in a mug, which is perfect if you want to make a small amount for one or two (and you need to scroll down a bit to actually see the recipe) which can be cooked in the microwave or in a traditional oven:

<https://www.yellowblissroad.com/microwave-apple-crisp-in-a-mug/>

Blessings,  
Penny Gates, Acting President

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*Next  
Women's Fellowship  
Executive Board Meeting  
September 10, 2021  
1:00 p.m.  
at the church.*



*hawkwing*: Women's Fellowship collects clean gently used washable coats and washable new items for the Lakota people in South Dakota and the items are distributed through the efforts of *hawkwing*, a non-profit organization. The box is located in the Narthex for depositing clean washable (please, no dry cleaning items) coats & wearables in good condition, and Jan Danforth faithfully collects and stores them each week. (Thank you Jan D.) 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). Janet W. and Peg D. coordinate the *hawkwing* missions for our church.

## Farmhouse Fair



### We Need Your Help!!

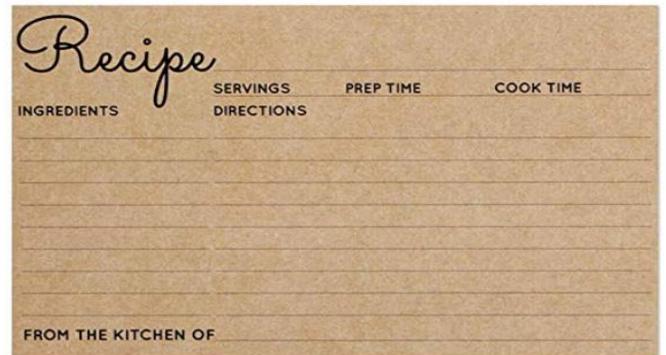
What's your favorite recipe? Is it a dish you can quickly make before attending a meeting or taking the kids to their activities? Is it a favorite appetizer, side dish, or dessert, perhaps even a tasty gluten free or allergen friendly? Do you have a favorite recipe everyone requests you bring to a gathering?

You may be wondering why we are asking these questions. In celebration of the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Farmhouse Fair, we would like to create a cookbook and we need help. We would like to

gather recipes from our church members to create a unique and yummy cookbook.

Recipes may include but are not limited to the following:

- Appetizer ~ entrée ~ side dish ~ salad ~ dessert
- snacks ~ gluten free ~ allergen friendly
- Crock pot ~ Instant Pot ~ microwave
- Quick and easy are always a hit!



We are looking for recipes you currently are using!

Format for submitting your recipe:

- Title/Name of recipe
- Prep time & Cook time
- Cooking Temperature (if applicable)
- Ingredients - name and amount to be used
- Step by step instructions

A small picture of the finished product is always desirable if you have one on hand.

Include a brief story or background on why this recipe is your favorite.

Email a typed copy of your recipe to Vivian via email: [womensfellowship@eccucc.org](mailto:womensfellowship@eccucc.org)

Or mail it to:

Women's Fellowship  
Ellington Congregational Church  
P.O. Box 216  
Ellington, CT 06029-0216

# The Church Family News



## BIRTHDAYS THIS MONTH

Sept 1	Kate Savage
Sept 2	Celeste Forst
Sept 2	Lillian Westerberg
Sept 2	Munro Crane
Sept 3	Julia Meyer
Sept 4	Colette Aldrich
Sept 4	Terri Lackouskas
Sept 4	Marty Nickerson
Sept 4	Bethany Crocker
Sept 4	Chas Gross
Sept 5	Dean Rasmussen
Sept 5	Jordan Terry
Sept 5	Nathan Wright
Sept 6	Alexa Bellezza
Sept 6	Jay M. Terbush
Sept 8	Curtis McKeegan
Sept 8	Megan Beebe
Sept 8	Morgan Beebe
Sept 9	Bethany Lavoie
Sept 11	Courtney Conley
Sept 14	Paul Westerberg
Sept 15	BJ Aldrich
Sept 15	William Cole
Sept 15	Stacy Fox
Sept 15	Elaine Duckett
Sept 16	Cole Winslow
Sept 17	Karen Johnson
Sept 18	Norah Wright
Sept 19	Donna McKiernan
Sept 19	Amanda Bellezza
Sept 19	Preston Aldrich
Sept 23	Tristan Mangold
Sept 25	Kyle Ciesco
Sept 26	Maggie Russell
Sept 28	Owen Feindel
Sept 29	Logan Firetto



## Anniversary Blessings

Sept 1	Lisa & David Sirag Jr.
Sept 6	Johnett & Jeff Simonson
Sept 10	Emily & Kevin Byam
Sept 12	Cheryl & Paul Dinse <i>Congratulations ~ 40 years!</i>
Sept 17	Joanne & Bill Raulukaitis
Sept 21	Jennifer & Drew Boynton <i>Congratulations ~ 25 years!</i>
Sept 21	Ellen & David Panagrosso
Sept 24	Caren & Dean Rasmussen
Sept 26	Jill & Bill McAllister
Sept 28	Marty & George Nickerson <i>Congratulations ~ 25 years!</i>
Sept 28	Melissa & Todd Rolland

## PRAYER GROUP & PRAYER CIRCLE



The Prayer Group prays **one hour every Tuesday at 11:15 a.m. in Room 201** for people in need. If you need prayers for someone or would like to be included in the Prayer Circle, or would like to pray with the Prayer Group please contact Dottie Marshall or the church office at [sec-eccucc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sec-eccucc@sbcglobal.net)

**H**ospitalized  
since the last Caller



*Thankfully, no one at this time.*

### If admitted to the hospital and would like a visit by a Pastor...

- Please **CALL** the church office as soon as you know you will be admitted.
- In your admitting process, you will be asked if you are part of a local faith community (church). If so, please answer **YES**, and give the name and town of your church.
- You will also be asked if you want your name released to representatives of your church. If so, please answer **YES**.

**If you say no, or if you do not give the name of your church, the hospital will not be able to release your name to Ellington Congregational Church.**



**Monday's – a  
much-needed day  
of rest...**

**Rev. Joanne will be  
off on Monday's**

Her back up &  
Monday coverage is Dawn Stone,  
Chairperson of Diaconate,  
call or text 860-305-3742

**For other days of the week  
Pastoral Emergencies or concerns  
call Rev. Joanne 860-872-9222**

*If you forget, Urgent Call Service is available at all times by calling the church and listening to the answering machine as it provides instructions.*



**T.E.L.O.S.**  
is accepting  
plastic  
bottles and  
cans **ONLY!**

**Bring your bagged bottles and cans on any  
SUNDAY - collection location Social  
Room Elevator Alcove**

**OR**

**Bring your bagged bottles and cans  
to the shed behind ECC on the  
3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday (10-11 am)**

**or**

**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday (3-4 pm)  
of each month!**

**▶ NO LONGER  
ACCEPTING  
GLASS BOTTLES.**

**▶ PLEASE DO NOT DROP OFF AND  
LEAVE BAGGED PLASTIC BOTTLES  
& CANS AT THE SHED ANY OTHER  
DAY. They become messy & blow around  
the church and surrounding lawns. *Thank  
you.***



*We give God thanks for the life  
of*

***F. Joseph Dawson***

*Our sympathy is expressed to all  
the  
family and friends of  
Joseph.*

*Blessed are those who mourn,  
for they will be comforted.*

*Matthew 5:4*



CHURCH MAIL

Dear ECC,

Thank you all for your calls, cards and prayers for the loss of our daughter, Christine. She accomplished so much in her short 50 years and touched many. She will be greatly missed.

*Dean and Caren Rasmussen and Family*

*To announce a special happening,  
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  
email the church office.*

*Thank you!*



***Baptized by Water & the Holy Spirit  
August 14, 2021***

***Lincoln Michael Kozikowski***, son of Alexis and William Kozikowski. Godparents are Christopher LaVerde and Jennifer LaVerde.

*We wish Lincoln and his family  
all God's blessings!*



**Is your CALLER missing, soggy,  
pup chew it?**

Visit [www.eccucc.org](http://www.eccucc.org) to read past editions and the current edition of the monthly publication The Church CALLER.

Bright and in beautiful color. Enjoy!



**THANK YOU TO ALL THE  
HEROES**



# Faith Formation News

## (Church School, S.E.E.D., T.E.L.O.S.)

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### Masks for church school, S.E.E.D. & T.E.L.O.S. youth groups:

All faith formation activities will follow the mask requirements of the Ellington Public school system. All participants will be required to wear masks regardless of their vaccination status through September. Updates will be shared regularly with registered families.

### Church school news!

#### 2021-22 Church School starts on September 12th!

The Sunday morning church school program is for children 3 years through entering 5<sup>th</sup> grade. There will be 2 age groups: preschool – 2<sup>nd</sup> grade & 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> grade.

Digital registration is open: <https://forms.gle/wf7L5L2RRAmx32WL9>

In the ever-changing landscape of the COVID-19 pandemic, families need the ability to choose what works best for their households. This may change from one week to the next; that's okay. Families will have several options to choose from each week:

- Virtual church school will be offered via Zoom 9-9:45 am
- In-person church school will be offered during the 10 am worship service

Parents may have their children **start in the Sanctuary**. In that case, Lee Carman will lead the children to class immediately following the Children's Message. Parents may have their children **start in the Social Room** instead of beginning in the Sanctuary. In that case, the other teachers will read a story, sing songs or work puzzles with the children. The lesson time will begin once all children are together.

Indoor classes will take place in the Social Room to provide the best ventilation possible and spacing between participants. When the weather is favorable, children and teachers will move outside for the church school lessons once all are gathered together.

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

Students Encounter and Experience Discipleship

Youth in 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grades will meet twice a month on Sundays (4:30 – 6 pm). An informational meeting for families will be held on September 19<sup>th</sup>, 5-6 pm.

Digital registration is open: <https://forms.gle/kwx1mujmi6J9cUVPA>

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

Teens Experience Living Out the Story

Youth in 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grades will meet most Sundays (6:30 – 8 pm). An informational meeting for parents and youth will be held on September 19<sup>th</sup>, 6:30-7:30 pm.

Digital registration is open: <https://forms.gle/iQ6BURWj2eUqFZbB9>

**Scrip is a year-round T.E.L.O.S. fundraiser! – See next page...**



T.E.L.O.S. Scrip Gift Card 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!  
 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, the 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

# GATEKEEPERS – SEPTEMBER 2021

<b>Sunday 10:00 A.M. In-Person Worship Service</b>	<b>SEPT. 5<sup>TH</sup> FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST LAY LED SERVICE</b>	<b>SEPT. 12<sup>TH</sup> RALLY SUNDAY FAITH FORMATION SUNDAY HOLY COMMUNION SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST</b>	<b>SEPT. 19<sup>TH</sup> JUST PEACE SUNDAY INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE ZOOM CONGREGATIONAL MEETING SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST</b>	<b>SEPT. 26<sup>TH</sup> AMERICAN INDIAN MINISTRY SUNDAY EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST</b>
Lay Reader:	Jol Sprowles	Joy Cloukey	Chas Gross	Cassie Soucy
Deacons on Duty:	Dawn Stone	Basil Stone Beth Tautkus Matthew Mangold Laurie Hazleton	Brian Wright	Laurie Hazleton
Ushers:				

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

NON-PROFIT  
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(TIME VALUE SEPTEMBER 1, 2021)

If you prefer not to receive this CALLER mailing from Ellington Congregational Church,  
no hard feelings, kindly let us know. Thanks for your consideration.

To opt out – contact the church office: [sec-eccucc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sec-eccucc@sbcglobal.net) or 860-871-6606

### **HIGHLIGHTS**

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From the Intentional Interim Minister p. 2 – 4  
Call to A Congregational Meeting p. 4  
Re-Opening Team Update p. 5  
Trustees Corner & From the Diaconate p. 6  
Prayer Shawl p. 7  
Friendship Class & Stewardship p. 8  
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The Church Family News p. 14 – 16  
Faith Formation p. 17 – 18  
September Gatekeepers p. 19  
September Calendar p. 20

### **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

### **CHURCH STAFF**

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

### **Church Office Hours**

8:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M. (Monday - Friday)  
Closed Weekends & Holidays

### **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 Page:** [www.eccucc.org](http://www.eccucc.org)

The Church Caller in color print located on-line.