



The Church Caller

A monthly publication of Ellington Congregational Church

October 2021

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

In-Person & Virtual

PREACHING:

REVEREND JOANNE MYER

**OCTOBER 3RD: WORLD
COMMUNION SUNDAY
NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER
PENTECOST**

**JOB 1:1; 2:1-10 // PSALM 26
MARK 10:2-16**

**“RELATIONSHIP AND
STEWARDSHIP”**

**OCTOBER 10TH: TWENTIETH
SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
INDIGENOUS PEOPLE’S DAY**

**JOB 23:1-9, 16-17
PSALM 22:1-15 // MARK 10:17-31**

**“ACT RESPONSIBLY, PREPARE
REASONABLY, LIVE GENEROUSLY”**

**OCTOBER 17TH: TWENTY-FIRST
SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

**JOB 38:1-7, 34-41
PSALM 104:1-9, 24, 35C**

**MARK 10:35-45
“OUR DEEP AND REAL
INTERCONNECTION WITH GOD’S
CREATION”**

**OCTOBER 24TH: TWENTY-SECOND
SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

**UNITED NATIONS DAY
JOB 42:1-6 // PSALM 34:1-8, 19-22
HEBREWS 7:23-28**

**“RELATIONSHIP AGAIN? YES,
INDEED: HUMAN, DIVINE,
ECOLOGICAL, POLITICAL, SOCIAL,
RELIGIOUS”**

**OCTOBER 31ST: TWENTY-THIRD
SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

**PSALM 146 // HEBREWS 9:11-14
MARK 12:28-34**

**“A DIALOGUE BETWEEN HEBREWS
AND MARK”**



The ECC Virtual Sunday Service

is available by way of:

1. **Facebook** and the **ECC Website** and are both setup to "premiere" the worship service @ 10:00 AM Sunday. No matter what time you click on – you will always view it from the beginning.
2. Past Services have been and will still be available on both Facebook and the ECC web site.

Facebook - you do not have to be a Facebook user. Just go to <https://www.facebook.com/pg/ellingtoncongregationalchurchucc/videos/> and select which one you want to watch.

ECC Website – www.eccucc.org



From the Diaconate

*Listen, I will tell you a mystery!
We will not die, but will all be changed,
in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet.*

1 Corinthians 15:51-52

Where are we ZOOMing to...

Ah change, sometimes welcome, sometimes not but inevitable never the less. We have had a year and a half of change, some good and some not. We had to close the church in March of 2020; we opened it back up in April of 2021 with masks and many restrictions. Then masks went away as COVID-19 numbers improved, and then masks came back as numbers rose again. It has been hard to keep up.

(continued on page 2)

Through all of this, we have had one constant, something we could depend upon...our virtual church service on Sunday morning at 10 a.m. The church was closed on Monday, March 9, 2020 and on March 16th, we had our first virtual service via the ZOOM format. Brian Cocuzzo was on his home computer and Dr. Jay was in his home office doing a live service. There were some hiccups but they pulled it off. There were other services that were live – not pre-recorded but broadcast live-Maundy Thursday comes to mind.

As our mastery of the technology of virtual formats improved, we began to branch out for the virtual services. Facebook and the church website came into play for broadcasting services. ZOOM was still an option and also included an option to phone in and just listen to the service without video.

Facebook options can be set up in various formats, on the ECC Facebook page and on the church web site: www.eccucc.org. The beauty of the Facebook format for the operators is it can be set up to automatically queue up at the prescribed time, 10 a.m. It can also be accessed at any time from the ECC website once it is posted. Did you realize that allows you to sleep in on Sunday morning and then “go to church” in your jammies? Who knew! That is the beauty of Facebook.

Now about the ZOOM format. ZOOM requires a “host” to start and stop a program/meeting. ZOOM meetings have a designated host who will start and stop the meeting. So too with the church service. Our dedicated “ZOOM guy” Brian Cocuzzo, has been doing that almost every Sunday morning for a year and a half. Queuing up the service at 10a.m. and shutting it down at the end. It requires him to be in front of his computer the whole time to catch any problems that might arise.

In the beginning, there were a lot of ZOOM viewers as that was the only format offered. As we began to put Facebook services out there, people began gravitating to it for the opportunity to interact with others during the service. A lot of “Hi’s and good mornings” began to appear. Consequently, ZOOM viewership has dwindled down to three

viewers who show up inconsistently. Diaconate has checked with each of these viewers and discovered that they each have the capability of viewing on the Facebook option. *Therefore the decision was made to end the Sunday morning ZOOM worship service after the October 3, 2021 service.* ZOOM will still be used for those groups that want it for meetings, etc.

ZOOM was there when we needed it most but now it is time to put it to rest and use the other more user-friendly formats!

See you for worship in the sanctuary or on Facebook!

Peace and blessings,
Dawn Stone, for the Diaconate



Important:



The attendance for the Zoom option for the online service has dropped to zero or one person per week. Given that we offer other online options, along with the extra effort required for Zoom, we will no longer offer a Zoom service after October 3. **We encourage everyone to use the church website link or, if you prefer, the Facebook link.**

REMINDER:
November Caller
Articles & Schedules
Deadline
OCTOBER 15, 2021

*Greetings from the
Intentional
Interim
Minister...*



October Meetings

In order for you, the faith community, to better understand the Intentional Interim Ministry process, I am going to offer both day and evening Zoom meetings during October. I joined you at the beginning of 2021 during the shutdown of the church; the pandemic has made everything difficult, especially communicating with one another. Perhaps some of you do not know exactly why I am with you. Perhaps you do not know why we cannot search for a new pastor until the division in the faith community has been identified and we deal with the causes of the division. During the Zoom sessions, I want you to feel free to ask any questions concerning Intentional Interim Ministry and the reasons why I am with you.

November Meetings

Due to the pandemic and the shutdown, it has been difficult for me to get to know you and for you to get to know me. I have gotten to know quite a few more of you now that we are holding in-person services again. In order for me to learn about your history with ECC, the grief or anger that, you might have about the vote of whether or not to approve Dr. Jay as Senior Pastor, or the opinions you have about the future of ECC, I am holding confidential meetings during the month of November in my office.

I am very grateful to Leigh Lezotte for helping me with the schedule that you see below. She has explained everything in detail. **Please read carefully. This is a very important step in our ongoing process.** I hope you will take advantage of these times for sharing information.

Your Sister in Christ,

Pastor Joanne



October Zoom Meetings

What is Rev. Joanne's position/role/goals/tasked with - as an Intentional Interim Minister with ECC?

Attend one or all the scheduled Q & A Open Format Sessions

Hear all the questions and answers, each session may have a different spark.

Links will be sent each week as a reminder via email only.

**Wednesdays 10:00 am – 11:30 am
10/6; 10/13; 10/20; 10/27**

**Thursdays 6:30 pm – 8:00 pm
10/7; 10/14; 10/21; 10/28**

No need to register.

**The Pastor is Listening
90-Minute Confidential
In-Person Meeting with Rev. Joanne**

Rev. Joanne will be hosting 33 available time slots allotting a 90-minute confidential meeting to hear your history with ECC, the problems you may have had or have with ECC and your future with ECC. These sessions can be one-on-one; as a couple or small group 2-3 people max., as these meetings will be held in the Senior Pastor's office and kept to the strict 90-minute allotment. Please be prompt and arrive prepared.

These 33 time slots will be first come first served and will go fast, do not hold off. Every Monday in November 9:00 am – 4:30pm; two Wednesdays and the last two Tuesdays 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm. Phone call reservations only – please call the church office Monday – Friday 8:00 am – 2:00 pm and speak with Leigh to schedule the best time for you. Do not send an email or leave a voice mail. Thank you.

Sunday, October 31st
10:00 am In-person Service

Faith Community is encouraged
to dress in the spirit of
Halloween.



Re-Opening Team Update

Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the Lord your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you.

Deuteronomy 31:6

We had some good news as of this writing (September 17) which is that Ellington moved into code yellow on the State of CT code alert map. Yellow is second best and an improvement from where we have been. We continue monitoring numbers, maps and reports from the CDC, State of CT guidance and the limited information from the UCC conferences. We also consider feedback from local churches, businesses and municipalities. The Re-Opening Team is meeting bi-weekly to stay current with what is happening with the pandemic. (Please remember that the COVID situation is very

fluid and can change fairly-rapidly. There is also about a two-week lag time from submitting our article to distributing the *Caller*.)

As we face the challenges of desiring to gather, but doing so safely, your church leaders have been quite creative. We had the reception for Esther outside at the pavilion of Rolling Meadows Golf Course. We are having an abbreviated version of the Farmhouse Fair this year – moved up to October 16 and only on Saturday with a rain date of October 23, 2021. And we are doing this in conjunction with the Ellington Historical Society – so we are participating with our community. And it will be outside!

Flowers are making their way back into the sanctuary in October. Thanks to the Pastor Joanne, Leigh Lezotte and the Trustees for making it possible.

Winterfest is another consideration and as the time gets closer, more decisions will be made. Right now, the Town and town organizations appear to be focusing on a reduced version with most activities happening outdoors. The Winterfest coordinator, Jill McAllister will keep you posted, as we get closer to the December 4, 2021 date.

As the COVID numbers continue to vacillate, and many local municipalities are requiring universal masking indoors, we are maintaining the protocols that we had instituted last month. **At this point, we are requiring masking again for everyone inside, vaccinated or not.** This has been the latest recommendation from the CDC and the State of CT Department of Health.

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.

(Continued on page 5)

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. Thank you to Cassie Miller for organizing our Fellowship Hour.

Virtual meetings will continue being offered indefinitely and are still encouraged. Please contact the church office to reserve a room for an in-person meeting at sec-eccucc@sbcglobal.net

Virtual worship will also continue being offered. Contact us at reopening@eccucc.org

Stay tuned. We will keep you posted as things unfold.

Blessings,

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



Town of Ellington Community Event

Ellington Scarecrow Festival

**Oct. 1st – Nov. 7th
2021
Viewing 24 hours
Town Green**



TRUSTEES CORNER

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 (NIV)

Part of the responsibilities of the Board of Trustees includes reviewing our current fiscal circumstances. Our Treasurer, Wade Overgaard provides a detailed monthly report, which is reviewed at each monthly meeting. Although our income is down for the year, our expenses are also lower due to a variety of reasons and we are actually currently in a positive balance for income less expenses.

As we move into the last quarter of the year, we want to give special thanks and appreciation to all of those involved in keeping our finances running smoothly, especially Treasurer, Wade Overgaard and Assistant Treasurer, Lori Savino, our church secretary, Leigh Lezotte and our financial secretaries, Pam Lombardo and Jan Schaeffer. The handling of disbursements and income is an every-week type of function and it is done so well and so smoothly that we may forget to count our blessings of the extraordinary efforts by that team. Thanks to every one of them! We appreciate how well things are done, from keeping track of deposits, paying bills to handling payroll, to tracking donations and so much more. Our church greatly benefits from their hours of work and amazing attention to detail. Wade will be reviewing and reporting on our insurance renewals next month, as well.

The Treasurer and the Trustees reviewed our financial assets and will be repositioning some of the more liquid assets of the church to improve our return on them.

The driveway was sprayed for weeds (twice) and we had our fire alarm inspection with *Encore*.

The Trustees also reviewed the upcoming contract for

the Director of Music.

The Fire Door replacement will be an ongoing project. One area of concern was 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 15, 2021.**

We expect the sanctuary roof and steeple work to begin in late September or October.

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

A Fond, Farewell Celebration For Esther

The planning for Esther's 30th anniversary celebration and retirement reception started in July. One of the things the Choir wanted to do was to sing with Esther one last time before she retired. What piece of music was discussed? Where could we rehearse? Where could we sing with the mask recommendations? Questions and more questions. All these things had to be evaluated in the context of where we were in re-opening protocols. And of course, how do you keep a 30th anniversary program and retirement celebration from someone like Esther who has so many people involved as part of the ECC music ministry?

One of the things that was key was flexibility in the August 29th service. The anthem offered by the Senior Choir needed to be music that could be prepared and presented in the sanctuary or adapted outdoors like in the gazebo or on the front steps of the church should the virus cause us to move outside. The choir had not rehearsed as a group since March of 2020, so they were to say the least a little "rusty"

after 18 months. With the music selected, the plan was to hold a rehearsal on Sunday, August 22nd after the service - but church was cancelled that day due to the hurricane coming up the east coast. Fortunately, Deb & Rob Wallace and Ada Lee & Curtis Thompson had put together a choir gathering hosted at the Wallace's home on Main Street. Esther brought the anthem music with her - and as part of the gathering, they shared a wonderful meal, enjoyed refreshments and rehearsed acapella in the Wallace's back yard. What a great day that was. Esther knew what the service music would be but she did not know what the program would be. In comes another team or merrymakers...

That team got to work on a 30-minute program that would be held right after the service ended. This program would include tributes and recollections from Pastor Joanne, a condensed timeline of Esther's 30 years with us in 3 minutes from Scott, and a historical account of the recorder quartet provided by Robin. Esther knew nothing of those items and stayed anchored in the choir loft during these parts of the program. One of the program highlights was Jol Sprowles, our in-house lyricist, who penned words set to the tune *Ash Grove* (which we know as hymn "Let All Things Now Living" found in the Chalice Hymnal #717). With the Choir leading, the congregation singing and Robin accompanying on the piano we all got to enjoy Jol's work named "*Song For Esther*". That work is included on page #22.

Along with all the tributes, recollections and musical offerings the church presented Esther with a gift box that contained many cards, best wishes, small gifts and a financial gift to show the appreciation the members and friends of ECC had for her 30 years of service and to celebrate her transition into retirement. At the end of the program, the program feature that brought Esther out of the choir loft was a piece we all know by Scott Joplin as "*The Entertainer*". This version was set for recorders. Anna, Dennis and Robin brought out the music and stands with a part for Esther. With an introduction by Robin, Esther received a surprise as Esther didn't know this piece of music was part of the program, she had not rehearsed the piece, and it would be her last recorder piece played by her at ECC as the Director of Music. Fortunately, Lino had worked behind the scenes to

ensure her recorder was here so they could play it. With *"The Entertainer"* being the final piece of the program, the congregation enjoyed something that was said that we could not play in church - but we did – just not in service. Ending with a traditional postlude, the congregation was then invited to the celebratory reception hosted by Women's Fellowship at the outdoor pavilion at Rolling Meadows golf course.

We enjoyed a boxed lunch with coffee and socializing at the pavilion at Rolling Meadows. There were 84 people at the reception and lots of chatting and laughing. The caterer did a wonderful job including providing eight seats to a table rather than ten for more space. It also looked beautiful. We had a special floral arrangement for Esther from Michelle's Florals. There were also 13 vases of flowers provided by Debby and Rob Wallace and Lou Jeffery, which came from their gardens and graced the 13 dining tables.

From the reception portion, there are so many people to thank. First, thanks to Chas Gross who suggested the Tavern at Rolling Meadows. Chas knew they had a spacious, outdoor, covered pavilion. The venue was wonderful to work with and they did everything we asked and more. Dawn Stone baked a beautiful cake. Norma Schneider sent rugelach and mini eclairs. Scott Noble was instrumental in helping with guidance and suggestions. Laurie Hazleton, Penny Gates and Janet Wieliczka helped with registration, some food and many details. The Planning Team, which included Women's Fellowship Executive Board, Dawn Stone and Scott Noble, met to iron out plans, which changed because COVID became worse over the month of August. Thank you to Leigh Lezotte who always helps us behind the scenes. Also, thank you to Francis O'Hara for all of his help, especially on the day of the event, from directing people, to delivering some leftover lunches to some who could not attend for health reasons. Thanks to Reverend Joanne for a beautiful and brief blessing.

In addition, I would like to thank Dottie Marshall who helped with phone calls. Finally, thanks to the Trustees; Jan Schaeffer, Treasurer of Women's Fellowship; and the church Treasurers, Wade Overgaard and Lori Savino for their help and support

with the financial aspects of this event.

Esther seemed to be happy and pleased with our efforts. We hope she knows that she is loved and appreciated. We were blessed to have her with us for 30 years! Happy Retirement, Esther!

Thanks to everyone who attended and made Esther's final day with us as our beloved Director of Music, so special.

Blessings,
Sharon McLaughlin
On behalf of the Planning Team



Thank you note –

To the ECC family –

I want to thank you for the wonderful retirement day on August 29.

I appreciate your generous gifts and thoughtful cards. Thank you for the spiritual last service (including *The Entertainer*) and the lovely outdoor reception. There were so many helpers and so much planning behind the scenes.

We have so many cherished musical memories and I will always remember you with a thankful heart.

With Christian love,

Esther Pezzella
Retired Director of Music





The Prayer Shawl Ministry

We welcome you to attend the next Prayer Shawl Ministry meeting on Thursday, October 28, 2021 at 9:30 a.m. in the social room.

Prayer shawls and lap robes for men and women are available in the room off the Narthex. Pocket prayers are available in baskets in several areas of the church. Please help yourself.

If you would like the easy basic pattern or more information, Please call Jan Starkweather at 860-875-1543. Thank you.



FRIENDSHIP CLASS

Friendship Class is back meeting on the first Tuesday of the month September - June at 1:00 p.m. in the Social Room.

The next meeting is on October 5th. No need to have a green thumb. After a short meeting, we will share about the plants we have brought.

We are asking anyone that wants to join us, to please bring a plant or plants to share with others. Perennials or Houseplants.

Come and join us. See old friends and make new ones.

Best Wishes,
Dianne Durgan

Stewardship



eGiving at ECC

- #1 - Give on our Kiosk web site
 - #2 - Give on the Mobile App
 - #3 - Give Online: www.eccucc.org
 - #4 - Give by check or cash
- Is eGiving secure and safe? Yes!

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR
GENEROSITY!**



*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:

"Your reputation is what people say about you.
Your character is what God knows about you."

-Bobby Bowden
Former Florida State Football Coach

THANK YOU!



Board of Missions thanks everyone who provided cleaning supplies for New Hope on the 5th Sunday in August. They were very pleased to receive the items.



**FOOD BANK -
SHOPPING
CART REQUEST
FOR THE
MONTH OF OCTOBER**

MOST NEEDED ITEMS

PLEASE NO GLASS JARS

Instant Oatmeal

Canned Soup – especially chicken noodle, cream of chicken, cream of mushroom

Rice-a-Roni, Pasta Roni or Knorr Side Dishes

- Ramen Noodles
- Egg Noodles
- Canned Beef Stew or Pasta
- Spaghetti Sauce – **no glass please**
- Canned Vegetables & Canned Fruit
- Instant Soup Mix
- Canned Baked Beans or Pork & Beans
- Instant Cocoa (with marshmallows)
- Boxes of Crackers – any brand/kind
- Jelly or Jam – **no glass please**

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

October 31st ~ 5th Sunday of the month Collection

On this Sunday we are asking our congregation to join with Missions in providing hairbrushes and toothbrushes (adults & kids too) for New Hope Shelter. Jen Kirchmeier, social worker for New Hope says the need for new clients to receive hair and tooth brushes is a top priority. We all like to have both brushes that are clean and new for our own personnel needs. So help us make this need a reality. You can place them in the marked plastic container located in the Sanctuary Elevator Alcove.



THANK YOU!

Sue recently sent an email to Lee Hay, Manager with the Cornerstone Food Cupboard for an update for the congregation.

Q & A with Lee Hay:

How are the shelves? We expect the number of clients to start increasing again when the extra unemployment benefits are to end on Monday.

Are you able to fill them? We are still able to get most of the food we need from Foodshare, but

Foodshare does not offer many items we desire (e.g., rice side dishes, pasta sauce, etc.). Therefore, I shop at grocery stores for the Cupboard about twice a month. This week I purchased instant potatoes, rice side dishes, canned soup, instant soup, and salad dressing.

Could you use some cards now? I have used up all of the Big Y cards, and I do find some good sales at Big Y. I still have \$100 in Stop & Shop cards. Fortunately, I also receive cash contributions on a somewhat regular basis, which I use when I run out of cards.

As always, thank you and your church members for your ongoing support! Lee Hay



BIRTHDAY BAG

Have you filled a Birthday Bag?
Great way to celebrate your day.

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

Your impact is helping...

*Reverend Joanne Myer,
Prayers and kind words at our mother's funeral
were a great comfort to my family.*

*My family and I would like to make a \$200 donation
to Ellington Congregational Church Missions in
honor of our mother, Nancy Lu McKenzie Raymer.*

*Sincerely,
Stacy L. Raymer*

Ellington Church,

*Thank you so much for donating the awesome
backpacks! The kids will be thrilled to receive them.
We appreciate you thinking of us and always
supporting Maple Street School.*

*It takes people like you
For our school to succeed!
Thank you for donating.*

REMINDER: Please continue to maintain a paper copy of your monthly meeting minutes for the Historian. The Historian mailbox is located outside the church office. These minutes from all the boards and committees are then filed in the archives. An electronic version should be emailed to the Church Office for the electronic records.

Thank you.

ECC Annual Meeting 01-27-2022

ECC ANNUAL REPORT

It is time for the Boards and Committees to begin thinking about their reports for the Annual Report. The **deadline** for electronically submitted reports and reports that require typing or significant formatting is **December 31st** and the **deadline** for financial documents is **January 21st**. There are no exceptions. If you would like a copy of last year's report please email the church office for a .pdf copy. Thank You!





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. Thank you.

Full Name

Submitted by

143rd Regional Support Group CT Army Nat'l Guard

250th Engineering Battalion Army National Guard

Allysson Belval

Bill McDonald

Chelsea Hinton

Chris Perrett

Chris Saucier

Curtis Hany

Damon Matus

Del Plato

Drew Blunt

Dylan LaMothe

Eric

Ethan Parlante

Evan Peterson

Frankie Valentin

Gary Feldman, Jr.

Greg Fearnley

Ian Rivers

Jessica Lannan

Jim

Jon Sanchez

Josh Long

Josh Smidge

Jay Walpole

Moriah Nutt

Patti & Mark Hany

Joan McCarthy

Carolyn Ladd

Lucie Parisi

Dawn Stone

Karen McCarthy

Justyn Manning

Larry Oliver

Lewis Hursh

Matt Boulem

Nick Audette

Nicole Walsh

Sean Belmont

Thomas Allen

Tim Moynihan

Zach Hazzard

Dawn Stone

Banks Family

Dawn & Basil Stone

George & Marty Nickerson

Lucie Parisi

Victoria Liegl

Jon Allen



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 1st Saturday (10-11 am) of each month!

► **NO 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.**

Women's Fellowship News

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.”

1 Peter 4:10

Dear Women of ECC,

October is such a beautiful month and forecasters are promising a vivid foliage this year. There are some changes to our schedule, including our Farmhouse Fair. The date has been moved to October 16 and it will be only one day this year held outside. Please keep in mind that we are doing our best under the difficult circumstances of COVID and we are happy to have something to offer this year (as opposed to canceled like last year). Ellington will be a destination because other groups, like the Ellington Historical Society is holding a Fall Festival on the same day. By working with other town groups, we are all pulling together as a church, a community and a town.

This is Vivian Hary's last year chairing the Farmhouse Fair, so we are also looking ahead for her replacement for 2022. Please prayerfully consider if you are willing to lead our Farmhouse Fair in 2022.

The reception for Esther Pezzella, held on August 29, 2021 was a beautiful success. Sharon McLaughlin received many thanks and handwritten, thank-you notes for organizing the reception. Moreover, Esther said that she was very happy with her last day! 😊



Date Change for Program!

On **Tuesday, October 26, 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. and it will be held on Zoom.

We are offering two links to fall treats:

Mulled Cider and Joe Froggers



The first link is for making hot mulled cider in slow cooker:

<https://www.thekitchn.com/how-to-make-mulled-cider-in-the-slow-cooker-235029>



The second link is for a soft, spicy cookie that uses rum or rum extract (if you prefer not using rum) that is quite delicious for those of us who like the ginger, clove, allspice, and nutmeg flavors. The recipe is from *New England Today* which is the website for *Yankee Magazine*:

<https://newengland.com/today/food/desserts/cookies-bars/joe-froggers/>

Blessings, Penny Gates, Acting President



*Next
 Women's Fellowship
 Executive Board Meeting
 November 5, 2021
 1:00 p.m.
 Zoom*



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. Janet W. and Peg D. coordinate the *hawkwing* missions for our church.



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

Visit 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*



The Church Family News



BIRTHDAYS THIS MONTH

Oct. 1	Deric Balling
Oct. 3	Allison McKeegan
Oct. 3	Janet McLaughlin
Oct. 4	Sasha Mangold
Oct. 6	Michelle Gluhosky
Oct. 6	Karen McCarthy
Oct. 11	Katherine Meyer
Oct. 12	Myles McVey
Oct. 15	Emma McCary
Oct. 16	John Andzans
Oct. 16	David Panagrosso
Oct. 18	Richard Malone
Oct. 18	Lizett Oliver
Oct. 21	Beverly Philbrick
Oct. 23	Myles Shelley
Oct. 24	Tom Mason
Oct. 24	Will Forst
Oct. 25	Declan Budd
Oct. 27	Kensley Morse
Oct. 29	Dawn Stone
Oct. 30	Abigail Gilliland



Oct. 5	Rachael & Mark Akeley
Oct. 12	David Robert & Paul Dube
Oct. 15	Virginia & Clint Heim
Oct. 17	Wendy & Barry Vincens
Oct. 19	Jennifer & John Traynor <i>Congratulations ~ 30 years!</i>
Oct. 21	Colette & BJ Aldrich
Oct. 26	Phyllis & Stuart Maslak
Oct. 30	Sherry & Christopher Crane

PRAYER GROUP & PRAYER CIRCLE



The Prayer Group **prays one hour every Tuesday at 10:00 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

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!



Hospitalized
since the last Caller



Barbara Peck

**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.

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.



Baptized by Water & the Holy Spirit

September 18, 2021

Calvin Theodore Keating

son of

Katherine and Sean Keating.

Godparents are Jennifer Ohlund and Robin Keating.

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

*We give God thanks for
the life of*

Richard Bowman

Carolyn Feldman

Otto Mayer

*Our sympathy is expressed to the
families and friends of
Carolyn, Otto and Richard.*

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

(Matthew 5:4)

Faith Formation News

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

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 October. Updates will be shared regularly with registered families.

Church school news!

Rally Sunday welcomed children 3 years of age through entering 5th grade back to church school. In the ever-changing landscape of the COVID-19 pandemic, families are allowed to choose between virtual classes held 9-9:45 and in-person classes during the 10am worship service. The virtual option is a one-room schoolhouse, while the in-person option is divided into two groups: preschool-2nd grade and 3rd-5th grades.

Digital registration continues at: <https://forms.gle/wf7L5L2RRAmx32WL9>

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

On Rally Sunday, students in the virtual class played a get-to-know-you icebreaker game, participated in a Colors of Faith scavenger hunt, and drew/talked about what they imagine God looks like. The virtual class ended with a time of prayer and sharing joys and concerns.

Students that attended church school in-person participated in a Creation scavenger hunt, played an animal action game, played Captain of the Ship, and colored school themed drawings.

S.E.E.D. youth group:

Students Encounter and Experience Discipleship

Youth in 6th – 8th grades meet twice a month on Sundays (4:30 – 6 pm).

Digital registration continues at: <https://forms.gle/kwx1mujmi6J9cUVPA>

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

Teens Experience Living Out the Story

Youth in 9th – 12th grades meet most Sundays (6:30 – 8 pm). Digital registration continues at:

<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 – OCTOBER 2021

Sunday 10:00 A.M. In-Person Worship Service	OCT. 3 RD NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY	OCT. 10 TH TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST	OCT. 17 TH TWENTY- FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST	OCT. 24 TH TWENTY- SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST	OCT. 31 ST TWENTY- THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST CONSECRATION SUNDAY
Lay Reader:	Wade Overgaard	Alice Sprowles	Basil Stone	Dawn Stone	Jol Sprowles
Deacons on Duty:	Andrew Koehnke Jane Scordato Alice Sprowles	Matthew Mangold	Brian Wright	Dave Feindel	Joann Scott
Ushers:					

A NOTE FROM GROWTH AND NURTURE

Thank you to everyone who attended the September 12th picnic at Arbor Park! The weather was beautiful, the music was great, and the company was even better. Thank you to Sharon McLaughlin who arranged for us to use Arbor Park for the day. Thank you to Lee Carman and BCE for providing drinks and games. And finally, thank you to Jeremy Banks and the members of *The Score* for playing at the picnic and making the event extra special. We appreciate all of you.



Are you interested in joining Growth & Nurture? We have a spot for you! You might be wondering what our committee is all about. One of our goals is to help members of ECC stay connected and involved. While the pandemic has made this more challenging than ever, we have tried to think outside the box to come up with new ways of staying connected. Some ways we have done this include: ECC drawing night on Zoom, weekly walks in Arbor Park, an Ellington scavenger hunt, virtual gingerbread house competition, and supporting our high school seniors. Do you have

ideas you would like to contribute? We would love to have you join us or even just email us your ideas! We hope to hear from you. growth@eccucc.org

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

Sunday, October 3 ~ 1:00 p.m.

Public Event - All Are Welcome!

Hosted by Ellington Congregational Church On the Town Green



"The animals of God's creation inhabit the skies, the earth and the sea and have a part in human life. We, therefore, invoke God's blessing on these animals and over all the creatures of the earth."

~ St. Francis of Assisi

Calling friends, family, neighbors and surrounding community!
This faith-based blessing is open to all!

Come celebrate with us as we bless and honor a pet, companion animal, agricultural animal and or working animal. If your animal is not available or too large for in-person blessings, bring along a photo to be blessed. Those that have passed will also be honored.

All animals should be leashed, crated or in a carrier. Bring a lawn chair or blanket for this community event. See you on the green!

Rain Date: Sunday, October 17 ~ 1:00 p.m.



Ellington Congregational Church Parking Lot

Sunday, October 31st @ 11:30 am



Medical masks required for unvaccinated folks!



3 ways to participate:

- Donate candy or other treats to be given out
- Decorate your trunk and bring a bowl (that we'll fill) and hand out goodies (Costumes encouraged – not too scary, please!)
- Bring your children or grandchildren to trick or treat the decorated vehicles (Bring the kids to church that morning. They can join in fun activities while you attend worship!)

Pick 1 or all 3!

Donations of candy and treats may be brought into church each Sunday morning. A collection tub will be available. Donations needed by 10/24.

If that doesn't work for you, reach out to Lee to make other arrangements!

christianed@eccucc.org

Planning on decorating your trunk?

Let us know, so we have treats prepared for you to hand out!

Email christianed@eccucc.org

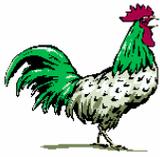
gHosted by BCE



59th FARMHOUSE FAIR

It's Back

New Date



Saturday October 16, 2021 ~ 10am - 3pm
Outside on Church Lawn

Rain date - Saturday, October 23, 2021 10am - 3pm

After successfully holding the Farmhouse Fair for 58 consecutive years, we had to break tradition in 2020 and cancel due to COVID. This year, even though the COVID Delta Variant haunts us, we are going to hold the fair! However, due to the uncertainty of what the status of COVID will be in November, it will not be the traditional presence, which everyone loved and enjoyed.

As we begin the first of what we hope to be many more consecutive years of fairs we had to change things a bit. Instead of holding the fair inside, we will take advantage of the beautiful fall weather and hold it outside. Instead of entering the church you will be greeted by a row of tents lining the Church's driveway, filled with all sorts of handcrafted goodies.

“Great time to start Christmas shopping.”

What will I find at the FHF you ask?

Following are the names of the tents and a sample of what you will find:

- Body Shoppe - bath salts, chap sticks.
- Christmas Shoppe – Decorations.
- Everything Animals - Snuffle Mats for dogs, animal design dish scrubbies, crochet stuffed octopus for infants.
- Experience Extravaganza - Baskets with activities for children and adults to enjoy doing together.
- Faithful Fibers – Knitted, crocheted, sewn and quilted items.
- Gals and Dolls - clothes for 18-inch dolls.
- Raggedy Ann & Andy - Dolls and clothes.

We regret that we will not be serving our delicious meals this year. Unfortunately, at this time we have not been able to figure out how to serve the food in a safe manner during the uncertainty of the COVID variant.

The Farmhouse Fair is being held in conjunction with the Ellington Historical Society's Fall Festival.

Unison



1. No mu - sic for ser - vice makes all of us ner - vous But
 2. At Thurs day ch-oir prac - tice we laughs and we chat ses And
 3. With ring - ing and ding - ing our bells do our sing - ing With



Es - ther's pro - dig - ious with tal - ents ga - lore. An - thems, can -
 in be - tween chuck - les we work on a song. Es - ther's per - sis -
 mu - sic that Es - ther has worked hard to find. Per - cus - sion and



- ta - tas, and pa - geants and so - los and guest ar - tists add to her
 - tent 'til our sing - ing's con - sis - tent It sounds bet - ter when we all
 Trum - pets by vi - si - ting ar - tists add ex - tra di - men - sions for



end (eh) less store. She plays on the or - gan and al - so pi - ,
 fol - low a - long. The young ones play bells and the youn - ger ones
 mu - sic sub - lime. Now Es - ther Is leav - ing, we're al - rea - dy



- an - o And too - tles re - cor - der but not so much jazz. When
 chimes. The ann - u - al pa - geants are more work for all. The
 grieving. Who can we find to do so much so well? Best



all those are lack - ing she brings in a back - ing Kar -
 young - sters and old - sters do love - ly pro - duc - tions; What
 wish - es to Es - ther, we'll al - ways re - mem - ber The



- a - o - ke Sound tracks for some ex - tra pizz - azz.
 ev - er our age Es - ther herds us just fine.
 way that she helped our mu - sic ex - cel.

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

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(TIME VALUE October 1, 2021)



New home? Phone? E-mail? **Changes, updates or 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 or 860-871-6606**

HIGHLIGHTS

Virtual Service & From the Diaconate p. 1 – 2
Greetings from the Intentional Interim Minister p. 3
Re-Opening Team Update p. 4 – 5
Trustees Corner p. 5
A Fond Farewell Celebration for Esther p. 6 – 7
Prayer Shawl, Friendship Class & Stewardship p. 8
Board of Missions p. 9 – 10
Women's Fellowship p. 12 – 13
The Church Family News p. 14 – 15
Faith Formation News p. 16
Gatekeepers & Growth & Nurture p. 18
Blessing of the Animals p. 19
BCE Trunk or Treat p. 20 // 59th Farmhouse Fair p. 21
Church Calendar p. 23

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

outreach@eccucc.org

Leigh Lezotte, Church Secretary

Sec-eccucc@sbcglobal.net

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:

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

HOW TO CONTACT THE CHURCH

Office & Answering Machine: 860-871-6606

Fax: 860-871-5932

Web Page: www.eccucc.org

The Church Caller in color print located on-line.