



# The Church Caller

A monthly publication of the Ellington Congregational Church, UCC

April 2023

Sunday Worship 10:00

Church School 10:00

Intentional Interim Pastor Joanne Myer

Director of Music Julie LaRocca

Director of Faith Formation Lee Carman



*Whoever you are and wherever you are on your faith journey, you are welcome here!*

## Upcoming Events

Visit [www.eccucc.org](http://www.eccucc.org) for details



Egg Decorating  
April 2, 2023  
11:15 am

Women's Fellowship Special Vote  
April 16, 2023  
11:15 am - Sanctuary



Sacred Stitches  
April 20, 2023  
9:00 am  
Social Room



Farmhouse Fair Workshop  
April 23, 2023  
11:30 am - Social Room



Prayer Shawl Meeting  
April 27, 2023  
9:30 am - Social Room

Mother's Day Cards for Sale  
By the Missions Committee  
April 30, 2023  
During Fellowship Hour

## Ellington Congregational Church

United Church of Christ

*Offering in person, livestream and recorded worship for viewing at [eccucc.org](http://eccucc.org)*

**All Are Welcome!**

## Please Join Us in Holy Week Worship

*Reverend Joanne Myer*

*Juliane LaRocca, Music Director*

**APRIL 2 ~ PALM/PASSION SUNDAY ~ 10:00 AM**

*Featuring the Junior Choir and Junior Bell Choir*

*Easter Egg Decorating Following Service*

**APRIL 6 ~ MAUNDY (HOLY) THURSDAY ~ 7:00 PM**

*Holy Communion and Tenebrae Service*

**APRIL 7 ~ GOOD FRIDAY**

*A pre-recorded service available starting at 9:00 am at [www.eccucc.org](http://www.eccucc.org)*

**APRIL 9 ~ EASTER SUNDAY ~ 10:00 AM**

*Bell Choir Prelude*

*Cantata Featuring the Senior Choir*

*Accompanied by Cello, Violin and Trumpet*

72 Main Street, Ellington, CT 06029 - [www.eccucc.org](http://www.eccucc.org) - 860-871-6606

### A Policy Note About Signing Up for Activities

For many programs offered at ECC, there are options available for signing up to participate. For those that prefer the convenience of using their device to access a sign-up sheet, we sometimes use free programs like Sign-up Genius or Google Forms. In all cases, there is also the option to sign up through either the office administrator or the committee hosting the activity. For those that prefer to make a phone call or to send an email.

If your committee or ministry would like to use one of the online programs, please contact the office administrator who can assist you with setting it up.

### Women's Fellowship

#### Special Meeting

#### April 16, following worship service

All women are asked to attend to vote on approving the Women's Fellowship Executive Board proposal to contribute to the TELOS trip. Money would be reallocated from the Silver Lake scholarship \$500, retreat money \$400, and \$600 from our contingency fund for a total of \$1,500.



# Vacation Bible School

June 19th - June 23rd

9am - noon



**\$40 per child/week**

**\$75 max per family**



**Includes: daily snack, craft, science,  
story time & games!**

Email Lee at [christianed@eccucc.org](mailto:christianed@eccucc.org) to sign-up!

## Ellington Congregational Church Women's Fellowship Scholarship Application

The ECC Women's Fellowship is pleased to announce two \$500.00 scholarships for 2023 are available to any member of the Ellington Congregational Church who is beginning or continuing their education at an accredited institution. This would include trade or technical institutions also. The scholarships are funded by the Women's Fellowship.

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

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

Completed applications should be addressed to the Women's Fellowship Scholarship Committee and mailed to PO Box 216 and to arrive on or before May 1 or submitted electronically to [OfficeAdmin@eccucc.org](mailto:OfficeAdmin@eccucc.org)

**Application deadline is May 1, 2023** - Late applications will not be accepted

## Shopping Cart Ministry April Most Needed Items

The board of missions was able to provide vegetables in February to the Food Pantry, for which they were very grateful.

These are their current requests:

- **More veggies - fresh and canned**
- **Fresh bunches of carrots**
- **Potatoes**
- **Mushroom Soup.**

**All other canned and boxed donations are greatly appreciated, as well a grocery store gift cards.**



## MISSIONS is on a Mission

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

*"When humor goes, there goes civilization."*

*Erma Bombeck*

As you remember, the Board of Missions is allocated a percentage of your annual pledged giving so that they may support mission work on behalf of the congregation.

In March, the Board of Missions donated \$250 to HVCC and Ellington Human Service each, to help support Mental Health wellness for children.

They also donated \$600 Vernon Human Services, to send 3 children to Camp Newhaca for a week this summer. That will be a most welcome treat for these three children.

They also voted to approve providing T.E.L.O.S. with one of the vans it needs for the Mission trip, at a cost of \$2500.

## Mother's Day - May 14

Mother's Day Cards will again be on sale during Fellowship Hour on April 30, May 7th, and May 14th.

The cards are \$5.00 each and will support Rockville Hospital Maternity Care Center.

## We Get Letters...

*Hi Sue,*

*Just came back from Big Y and was thinking about you and all the donations we receive from Ellington Congregational. Today thanks to your gift cards, I was able to purchase 96 cans of pasta and 30 packages of instant potatoes. All of your help truly makes a difference in the lives of our families!*

*Lee (Lee Hay, Manager Cornerstone Food Cupboard*

## Join the Talents Project Coming in April (after Easter)

*What will your talents do with \$10?*

Presented by the Stewardship Committee

In Matthew 25, Jesus told the Parable of the Talents. In this parable, the wealthy man gives money (8 talents) to his 3 servants.

Two of the faithful servants put the money to good use and multiply the master's money. The one who got five traded it into ten.

The ECC Talents Project asks volunteers to receive a \$10 investment and, using their "talents," see how far they can multiply it as a fund-raiser for the church. The Project will go for several months starting after Easter - Start planning your warm or cold weather project now!

This project was last done about 5 years ago and the investments were returned to the church at over \$3,000. Individuals and teams did projects such as baking, sewing, computer help, metal recycling, organizing events such as a Community Dance, and a Talent Show with Dinner. Your effort can be ongoing for the whole Project or can last one day or for a short period of time. If you wish, you can team with other individuals. Virtually anything legal and moral that you can think of can be done. Both the volunteers and those who reaped the benefits of those talents had a fun time with this Project. Stay tuned for more information!

### TALENT PROJECT - PHOTO DIRECTORY

Coming in May -  
Stay Tuned for Details!

Would you like to help? Please speak with someone on the Growth and Nurture committee.

## Fellowship Hour

Each Sunday after worship, we invite all to join us for fellowship in the Social Room. It's a great time to reconnect and meet new people who may be visiting for the first time.

People are needed to help with the snacks and clean up after. Please call or email Cassie Miller at [cassandrasmiller22@gmail.com](mailto:cassandrasmiller22@gmail.com) if you would like to help.

Thank you!

The Growth and Nurture Committee encourages you to wear your name tag at worship service and any other ECC gatherings. This small act goes a long way to fostering relationships and helps newcomers feel welcomed.

Missing a name tag? Please fill out the form in the narthex and leave it in the collection plate or contact Caroline in the office - [officeadmin@eccucc.org](mailto:officeadmin@eccucc.org).

David Robert -  
Thank you for sharing your musical talents, especially when you play the violin.



## Trustees Corner

April 2023

John 14:6 (NIV): *Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."*

Thank you to everyone who has pledged and continues to support the work and mission of Ellington Congregational Church. Thanks also to everyone who provides giving – financial as well as time and talent all of which are needed for a healthy, vibrant church. Your continued support of the church is so important. February was a challenging month from a financial standpoint, and we are prayerful that those behind on their pledges can bring them up to date.

Correction from last month - David Sirag will continue as the **Secretary** of the Trustees.

The replacement of the fire doors project has begun. Accurate Door will begin installing new doors as the materials arrive and a contract for the required replacements and other work has been signed. The Trustees are hopeful that a modification from the State of CT for the sanctuary doors of the narthex is granted, so that those beautiful doors don't have to be changed.

The Trustees are looking into purchasing standard toilet paper roll dispensers (instead of the wide ones which don't work too well with standard rolls) and for those who have brought forth the loose toilet seats issue, four new toilet seats have been ordered to replace the loose ones. 😊

The key fobs project will hopefully have been completed by the end of March. April is the first month of the second quarter of the year. The Trustees will continue monitoring our fiscal standing as we move through 2023.

Blessings!

Chas Gross, Chair of Trustees

### **Prayer Shawl Ministry**

We welcome Cassie Miller as the new leader of the Prayer Shawl Ministry. Please join Cassie and the other group members at the next meeting on **Thursday, April 27, 2023 at 9:30 a.m. in the social room.**

Shawls and lap robes are available on the rack in the Narthex and also in the room off of the Narthex. Please help yourself at any time.

# 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.*

Dear Women of ECC,

We are beginning the second quarter of the year already with some very important days in front of us, starting with Holy Week – Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and then jubilant Easter Sunday! We wish you all a very meaningful, spiritual Holy Week and Happy Easter!

The primary way (and most years the only way) that Women's Fellowship has funds available is through the money raised at the Farmhouse Fair. We are so grateful that Jen Traynor has agreed to continue on for 2023 as the Chair of the Farmhouse Fair. Our \$1,800 donation to the church budget; our scholarships; our donations to Safe Grad parties; food purchases for events like Game Day; new, thermal coffee-servers, commercial cleaning of the kitchen once a year – all of this and more is funded by the proceeds from our Annual Farmhouse Fair. We are very grateful to the support of the Fair by our congregation. We are in need of a couple people to chair some rooms. One is Kids Corner – it is a place where children can purchase gifts for their families at very inexpensive prices and the other is entitled Everything Animals. Please see Jen Traynor or Penny Gates if you are willing to step up to chair a room.

The nominating process has begun for the next slate of Women's Fellowship Executive Board officers. If you have any interest in joining us, please see Penny Gates. We will be electing a President and Vice President (or co-Presidents again), Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, Secretary, and Chaplin. We also have Chairs of Committees like the Program Chair and Hospitality open. Our officers are elected each year at our Annual Luncheon, which is scheduled for June 27, 2023 with details TBD. Save the date and plan to come!

**Sacred Stitches meets on the third Thursday of each month from 9:00 a.m. to noon, and their next meeting is Thursday, April 20, 2023.** Everyone who wants to sew is welcome to join. Please contact Jan Schaeffer at 860-875-5581 with any questions.

Our coat collection for hawkwing continues. Please place clean, gently-used coats in the bin in the narthex.

The applications for the two \$500 scholarships offered each year by Women's Fellowship for higher education are due in the church office by May 1, 2023. Please plan accordingly. Late applications will not be accepted. There is a separate article in the Caller explaining how to apply.

Our next Women's Fellowship Executive Board meeting is Friday, April 14, 2023 at 1:00 p.m. on Zoom.

Blessings,

Penny Gates and Sharon McLaughlin, Co-Presidents

## MEET THE COMMITTEE – MUSIC

This month we are highlighting the Music Committee, which helps support our popular music program. Our bylaws describe duties of the Music Committee are to purchase music needed for our choirs in accord with the choir director's suggestions, to recommend to Prudential candidates to fill vacancies for the organist and/or



choir director, and to have general oversight of the music of the church. It is not necessary to be a member of the choir to serve on the Music Committee.

Music at Ellington Congregational Church is such an important part of our worship and service. The Music Committee serves a vital role for helping behind-the-scenes and as part of the team helping support our Director of Music. The care of our musical instruments as well as acquiring new ones falls under the oversight of the Music Committee. Additionally, the Music Committee evaluates our music program, as well as establishes goals and plans of action for our musicians. Other responsibilities include yearly evaluation of the music staff, preparation of the music budget, and planning for multi-year projects in addition to planning and publicizing special music events.

The spiritual gifts of the Music Committee members may include the desire to give, which includes sharing resources, as well as offering encouragement, comfort and hope to others including our musicians. A love of music, a desire to help support our paid music staff, and a desire to share our musical offerings with the congregation and beyond, are some of the spiritual gifts that a Music Committee member may have. Some of the programs supported by the Music Committee include hosting outside Bell Ringers such as the Hockanum Valley Ringers. There are also many instances of special music that support our church services, such as offerings of our Senior Choir, who participate in our Sunday services, but also provide music for Christmas Eve, Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Easter Sunday and much more.

The Music Committee members may have a love of art and music. Our Sacred Dancers have fallen under the guidance of our Director of Music and have been supported by the Music Committee. If you have a love of music and wish to help enhance our music program at Ellington Congregational Church, the Music Committee may be the right place for you. Please contact Jill McAllister, who is part of our Nominating Committee if you are interested in joining the Music Committee or would like additional information. You may email Jill at [outreach@eccucc.org](mailto:outreach@eccucc.org) or speak with Pastor Joanne about any of our Boards & Committees.

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

## ECC Contact Information

**860-871-6606** [www.eccucc.org](http://www.eccucc.org)

*Church Office Hours: Tues - Fri 9:00 am - 2:00 pm*

*Office email: [OfficeAdmin@eccucc.org](mailto:OfficeAdmin@eccucc.org)*

[officeadmin@eccucc.org](mailto:officeadmin@eccucc.org)

**Caroline Takach**, Office  
Administrator

**Location/Shipping Address**

72 Main Street

**Mailing Address**

P.O. Box 216,  
Ellington, CT 06029-0216

**Fax** 860-871-5932

**WIFI for Sanctuary and**

**Social Room: ECCwifil**  
pass: 2019churchECC!

**The 24/7 church answering  
machine provides  
instructions for urgent call  
service .**

**Pastoral Emergencies,**  
concerns or prayer requests,  
call Pastor Joanne at  
**860-872-9222.**

[pastor@eccucc.org](mailto:pastor@eccucc.org)

**Joanne Myer**, Intentional  
Interim Minister

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