



# The Church Caller

A monthly publication of the Ellington Congregational Church, UCC

June 2023

Sunday Worship 9:30

Church School 9:30

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



T.E.L.O.S. Car Wash

June 3, 2023

9:00 am - 12:00 pm

Rocky's Hardware



Whole Church Meeting

June 4, 2023

11:30 am

Social Room



Friendship Class

June 6, 2023

1:00 pm

Rm 201



Sacred Stitches

June 15, 2023

9:00 am

Social Room



Women's Fellowship

Presentation of

Scholarship winners

June 15, 2023



Vacation Bible School

June 19-23, 2023

9:00 am - Noon

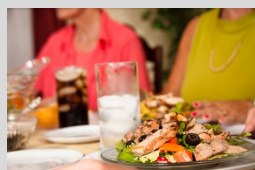


Prayer Shawl Meeting

June 22, 2023

9:30 am

Rm. 201\*



Women's Fellowship

Annual Luncheon

June 27, 2023

12:00 pm

Figaro's, Enfield



Farmhouse Fair Workshop

June 29, 2023

7:00 pm

Social Room



**June 4, 2023**

**Immediately after the worship service an All Church Pot Luck Meal & Meeting**

An All Church Pot Luck Meal and Meeting will be held in the social room to share and discuss the Small Group information and Pastor Joanne's information concerning the past.

A "Service For Moving Forward" will follow the Pot Luck Meal and Meeting.

**Childcare will be provided during the meeting.**

For the Pot Luck Meal:

Last names A-M - Bring a Main Dish

Last names N-Z - Bring a Side Dish

Board of Deacons will provide desserts, coffee and juice service.

**All are welcome and you do not need to be an ECC member to attend. You are also invited even if you did not take part in a smaller group session.**



## Shopping Cart Ministry June Most Needed Items

School is out for the summer soon - please keep the children in mind when you shop.

- Canned fruit
- Ramen noodles
- Spaghetti sauce in plastic jars (such as Francesco Rinaldi)
- Canned pasta
- Cans of condensed soup
- 4-packs of pudding cups
- Pouches of instant potatoes
- Rice side dishes (such as Rice-A-Roni, Knorr side dishes)
- Packages of cheese filled or peanut butter filled snack crackers

**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.*

*"Carry with you maps and strings, flashlights, friends who make you sing, and stars to help you find your space: Music, hope and amazing grace."*

*Mary Chapin Carpenter*

## Your Food Donations Make a Difference

From David O'Rourke at HVCC:

"As always we are so grateful for all you do for HVCC and the community".

The ECC community donated 18lbs of food to HVCC, along with monetary donations for their campaigns, helping those in Tolland and Hartford County with the food pantry, bus transportation and services for those struggling with mental health.

ECC Missions also recently supported Samaritan's Purse, enabling them to open an Emergency Field Hospital, providing life-saving care and equipment to the people of Turkey and Syria after the high magnitude earthquakes, and doctors and nurses in response to the cholera outbreak in Malawi.

## Father's Day - June 18



Father's Day Cards will again be on sale during Fellowship Hour on June 4th, June 11th, and June 18th.

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

## MISSIONS BIRTHDAY BAG PROJECT

**Celebrate Your Birthday  
By Helping Someone Else  
Celebrate Theirs!**



### Suggested Donations

- Party Bag
- Cake mix & frosting
- Party themed: paper plates, paper napkins, paper/plastic tablecloth
- Plastic cutlery
- Candles

### Optional:

- Party Hats
- Decorations

# **New! For Young Adults: High school grads - 22 yrs.**

## **Faith Inspired Grads**



**Gathering Wednesdays @ 6pm over the summer  
beginning on June 21st**

**Not just for ECC young adults:**

**A faith-based opportunity to meet others embarking on the next  
chapter of their lives following high school graduation.**

Community doesn't end at graduation - neither do relationships.  
They just change.

Spend time deepening relationships and your faith by engaging in conversation and  
activities with other young adults in the community!

Contact Lee Carman at [christianed@eccucc.org](mailto:christianed@eccucc.org) for more information



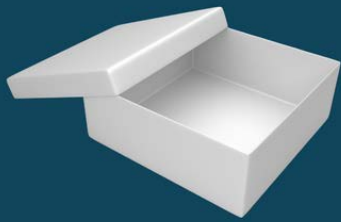
### **Time for a summer cleanout?**

Help Support the Cheyenne River Sioux/Lakota Tribe (CRST)  
in South Dakota

Please consider donating gently used: Winter Coats, Jackets,  
Hats, Gloves and Snow Pants (children's sizes too)

Year around ECC collects these items and donates them through Hawkwing, Inc. To donate,  
bring the items to church and place them in the blue bin under the coat rack downstairs off  
of the Social Room.

If you have any questions please contact Vickie Oravits at [oravitsv8@gmail.com](mailto:oravitsv8@gmail.com).



June 4th!

## The Box returns!

Each Sunday The Box will be given to an individual or family. They return it the following week with an item inside. The Children's Message will be made up on the spot inspired by the object inside.



## Vacation Bible School

**Registration  
Open!**

June 19th - June 23rd

9am - noon

**\$40 per child/week**

**\$75 max per family**

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

Register at [eccucc.org](http://eccucc.org) or call 871-6606!



## Summer L.I.G.H.T.

Learning In God's House Together

Summer L.I.G.H.T. returns on June 4th during ECC's single 9:30 service. The last session will be on August 27th.

\*No Summer L.I.G.H.T. on July 9th or 16th \*

One-room school house program: 3 yrs - 5th grade.  
Children will start in the Sanctuary with their families.

**Older youth may help lead the sessions.**  
**Volunteer opportunities for both adults and youth 6th grade and older!**

Contact Lee Carman, Director of Christian Education,  
for more information.

Phone: (860) 871-6606 Email: [christianed@eccucc.org](mailto:christianed@eccucc.org)



## Women's Fellowship Annual Luncheon

June 27 2023, 12:00 pm

Figaro's, Enfield

All women of the church are invited to attend.  
Signups are in the Social Room through June 18, 2023.  
Women's Fellowship is holding the cost to \$22 per person.



### Prayer Shawl Group

Please note the Prayer Shawl Group will be meeting upstairs in Room 201 on June 22, 2023 due to VBS.

## 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.

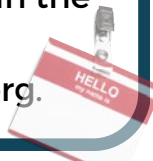
Thank you!



T.E.L.O.S. Car Wash  
Saturday, June 3rd: 9am-noon  
Rocky's Hardware in Vernon

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).



How will you help make ECC's community outreach event a success?

**Check out the VBS job board in the Social Room!**

Thank you, Cathy Leonard, for your experience and leadership serving as Moderator and on the Human Resources committee.



# SEASON OF THE BAGS OF GOLD/TALENTS

Did you decide on a project yet? Need help finding or developing your ideas?

There are successful projects that were done in the past, and we can help you plan them out.

- Laurie Hazleton (860) 878-9223 Lhazleton@aol.com
- Jol Sprowles (860) 870-9713 Jols0706@hotmail.com
- Sharon McLaughlin (860) 875-8808 Sharjmw@aol.com



**Charcuterie Demonstration**  
 by Marci Richardson  
 Friday June 16 5:00 pm  
 27 Kibbe Road Ellington

Wine and non-alcoholic beverages served

**\$10/person**  
**Call Marci to**  
**register:**  
**860-810-5042**

## A New Picture Directory is Coming!

Let's fill the pews with happy faces! Please send us your or your family's picture if we did not take your picture at church. Please email your picture to: [outreach@eccucc.org](mailto:outreach@eccucc.org).

If you are a member or a regular visitor at ECC, we'd love to have you in the album. Each family in the album will also receive their own to take home.



## Grandmother Zina's Heritage Cinnamon Buns

Like the samples at Social Hour on May 7 but bigger!

\$1 each

After June 4 until Labor Day in the Social Room

## Baked Goods by Laurie

Laurie Hazleton will be offering her yummie creations during the year. Dates TBD

## Small Quilt by Penny - Dates TBD



# SEASON OF THE BAGS OF GOLD/TALENTS

## Advertisers! Find Your Place in the Pews!

We are producing a full color member photo directory, professionally printed and bound on quality glossy stock.

- Reach over 350 members and visitors
- 75 directories in the pews with additional directories to members
- Given out to new members when they join
- Directories will remain in the pews for at least 12 months
- \$100
- 4" x 2.5"
- Full color
- Professional Graphic design included

Please contact Jill to place an ad 860-810-8993 or [outreach@eccucc.org](mailto:outreach@eccucc.org)

## PREACHER'S GOTTA PREACH!

Start thinking about the sermon YOU want to hear -  
Pastor Joanne will be auctioning off the opportunity to choose the topic!  
Stay tuned for details...

Ellington Congregational  
Church



### 61st ANNUAL FARMHOUSE FAIR

- Decorative food kits
- Christmas décor
- 18" doll clothes
- Pet toys and goodies such as cat wand toys, cat nip bags, dog coats, dog biscuits, and any animal-themed items
- Any items made from fibers like yarn and fabric, such as quilts, clothing, blankets, kitchen items, baby items, h
- Kids Corner – new or gently used items that kids will want to purchase as Christmas gifts

### FARMHOUSE FAIR

### SAVE THE DATE!

NOVEMBER 3-4, 2023

*Home-made and Hand-made  
Held in our traditional indoor style*

We would love YOUR hand-made item donations to support the church! This is the list of what we need that you can work on over the summer. We're looking for items or kits that people might purchase at the fair, such as:

Join us for our next workshop making gift boxes  
June 29 at 7:00 pm in the social room

Questions can be directed via email to [jenniferatraynor@yahoo.com](mailto:jenniferatraynor@yahoo.com)

# 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.*

*Song of Songs 2:12 Flowers appear on the earth; the season of singing has come, the cooing of doves is heard in our land.*

Dear Women of ECC,

June is the halfway point of our fiscal church year. It also marks the end (and beginning) of our Women's Fellowship program year. Our officers will be elected at our **Annual Luncheon, which is scheduled for June 27, 2023 at noon at Figaro's restaurant in Enfield CT.** All women of the church are invited to attend. Signups are in the Social Room through June 18, 2023. Women's Fellowship is holding the cost to \$22 per person. The entrée choices are chicken francese, veal marsala, or stuffed filet of sole.

We are presenting a slate of officers for the upcoming program year of 2023-2024, which includes Co-Presidents Penny Gates and Sharon McLaughlin; Secretary, Dottie Marshall; Treasurer, Jan Schaeffer; Assistant Treasurer, Janet Wieliczka; Chaplin, Cassie Miller; Kitchen Chair, Laurie Hazleton; and Farmhouse Fair Chair, Jen Traynor. Dottie Marshall also fills the roles of Prudential Rep. and Hospitality Chair. We still need a Program Chair and, **there are several members on the Board for whom our 2023-2024 program year will be their last year.** If you are interested in serving on the Executive Board, please see Penny Gates.

Did you know that Women's Fellowship has their own approved Constitution and Bylaws? From our Bylaws, Article IV Standing Committees, Section 4: **Farmhouse Fair**, the last two sentences read as follows: **The purpose of the Fair shall be for the social, spiritual, and financial benefit of the Women's Fellowship. There shall not be persons, private vendors or outside organizations involved for their personal profit or gain.**" The deliberate choice was made to not offer renting space to outside vendors or individuals as many other church fairs have done. The primary reason is that we wanted our Farmhouse Fair to maintain it's unique flavor with most items offered as handcrafted by the congregation or friends of the church.

**Sacred Stitches meets on the third Thursday of each month from 9:00 a.m. to noon, and their next meeting is Thursday, June 15, 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 under the coat rack off of the Social Room.

Our next Women's Fellowship Executive Board meeting is Friday, June 2, 2023 at 1:00 p.m. on Zoom. We will not be meeting again until September 8, 2023.

Blessings,

Penny Gates and Sharon McLaughlin, Co-Presidents



# MEET THE COMMITTEE – BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

This month we are highlighting the Board of Christian Education, who guides the educational ministry of the church by supporting the children's church school, confirmation class, youth groups, adult education, and intergenerational activities.



The Board of Christian Education (BCE) fills a very important role in our church. They support the values of our church regarding faith formation and plan educational activities that encourage church growth and deeper relationships. They strive to create an inclusive and welcoming environment for children, youth and their families no matter where they are on their lifelong faith journeys.

The Board of Christian Education also supports the staff with the confirmation classes and youth groups. Some of the other responsibilities include helping coordinate children and youth participation in service activities and worship, assisting in the planning of children's programs and intergenerational events and ensure compliance with the Safe Conduct policy.

Christian Education and life-long faith formation is one of the major areas of focus of our church. Church School is scheduled every Sunday for our children through 8th Grade. Some of the other ways that BCE offers support is by arranging infant & toddler care for Sunday worship, helping the Director of Faith Formation with the planning and oversight of Summer Bible School as well as family-friendly celebrations such as Christmas family worship, our Christmas participative play, and Children's Sunday.

BCE also oversees TELOS, our Teens Experience Living Out the Story for Grades 9-12, which is facilitated by the Director of Faith Formation.

Teaching and a love of teaching are certainly two of the different types of spiritual gifts that would be a wonderful fit for a member of BCE. Teaching others about Jesus and the Word of God is a wonderful gift to bring to BCE. There are many teaching opportunities for this Board, including our weekly Church School.

A desire to serve by helping to organize events, from the Christmas services to 3rd Grade Bible Breakfast, Easter activities, Vacation Bible School and more is another spiritual gift that a BCE member may be blessed to have. Some former members of BCE have said that they not only learn from the children, but they learn from the lessons prepared for the children, as well.

Teaching the Word of God to our children is so incredibly valuable and important.

If you enjoy working with, and teaching children, or if you have the spiritual gift of leadership – to support and encourage our children, youth and others, BCE may be a great fit for you. Other spiritual gifts, such as knowledge – the ability to know and explain God's Word, administration – helping with long-term goals and remaining on task, or serving by helping in some way are all wonderful spiritual gifts for BCE members.

Please contact Jill McAllister, if you are interested in joining the Board of Christian Education or would like additional information. You may email Jill at [outreach@eccucc.org](mailto:outreach@eccucc.org) or speak with Pastor Joanne about any our Boards & Committees.



## Trustees Corner

June 2023

Matthew 19:26 (NIV): *Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."*

The project of bringing the fire doors up to code has begun. This will be an ongoing process as materials become available. There were five doors replaced on May 11, 2023 with quite a few more to be adjusted or replaced. The double doors that lead to the Education Wing have been replaced and also have crash bars on them. (They will need to be painted at some point.) The doors on both levels of the back stairwell have been replaced as well. The fifth door replaced was the one to Pastor Joanne's office.

Brian Cocuzzo installed a new computer in the church office and transferred all our data and programs to it. The new machine is much faster than the old one, which greatly improves the work experience, especially for users who log in remotely. Additionally, we now have constant data backup to the cloud, which protects us from a catastrophic loss if the computer were to fail. Thanks again, Brian!

The Trustees approved a proposal to replace our emergency lighting. The existing lights are older units with batteries that do not hold their charge for very long. The newer lighting will be more energy efficient with LED lamps and modern batteries.

Lawn mowing has resumed with no price increase over last year. The air conditioners are being serviced in May to prepare for the summer.

Welcome to our newest Trustee, Chris Pettigrew!  
Blessings,

Chas Gross, Chair of Trustees

### **BOARD AND COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

To obtain copies of the minutes from the Boards and Committees, please contact the following:

Prudential minutes - Betsy Cottle, Clerk  
All others - Lisa Sirag, Historian

