



The Church Caller

A monthly publication of the Ellington Congregational Church, UCC

August 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!*

THE GREATEST COMMANDMENT

"Teacher, which is the most important commandment in the Law of Moses?" Jesus replied: "'You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul and all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. A second is equally important: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' The entire law and all the demands of the prophets are based on these two commandments."

Matthew 22:36-40 NLT

Upcoming Events

Visit www.eccucc.org for details



Yardgoats Game with
Julie's Quartet
August 5, 2023



Farmhouse Fair Workshop
August 6, 2023
10:30 am - Social Room



How Much Do You Know??
August 13, 2023
9:30 am



Canned Goods Collection
August 13 & 20
9:30 am



Holy Humor - Outdoor Service
August 27, 2023
9:30 am - Front Lawn



Rally Sunday / Back to
Church School Service
September 10, 2023
10:00 am



Rally Sunday Church
Picnic
September 10, 2023
11:30 am - Arbor Park



Blessing of the
Animals
October 8, 2023
1:00 am - Town Green

Examining The Present To Lead Us To Adapt To And Move Into The Future Next Steps Of The Intentional Interim Process

We held a "Facilitators" meeting last week to prepare for the next phase of our interim work. In our next phase, we will examine our present circumstances at ECC, our surrounding community and in the world. Examining the present will lead us to adapt to and move into the future.

The Pastor and Facilitators are working closely together and are currently preparing for the meetings that will take place in Sept. They will start contacting their groups during the two weeks after Rally Sunday. **WE NEED EVERYONE TO JOIN THESE GROUPS! WE ESPECIALLY NEED YOUNG PEOPLE AND YOUNG FAMILIES.** Whether you are new, not members, or haven't been to ECC in a while, we need the involvement from young people that will help us shape our future. This work will affect the future generations and future vitality of ECC.

If you had not signed up previously for the "past" sessions, please call Caroline in the office 860-871-6606 to get added to the list. **Please don't miss this opportunity to have your voice heard.**

For additional information about this next phase of our interim work, please listen to Pastor Joanne's sermon from July 2nd on youtube:

<https://youtube.com/live/jXRPysiUjZw?feature=share>

WELCOME BACK - RALLY SUNDAY

Sept 10, 2023

10:00 am 1st Day of Church School

11:45 am Picnic at Arbor Park - BYO chairs, blankets, lunch



Music by The Score
Live Classic, Party, Rock, and Dance Music
Reptiles at the Park
Interactive Program



Programs, drinks and desert provided by Board of Christian Ed and the Growth and Nurture Committee

The 2023 T.E.L.O.S. Mission Trip was a great success!

A group of 22 youth, leaders & chaperones transformed a shell of a house into what will be a home for Mimi and her adopted teens.

The group worked with TEAMeffort and Unconditional Love Ministries in Tennessee. Paint was scraped off the exterior of the house. Shutters and the exterior were primed then painted. The front door was fixed to block both light and insects from entering in gaps around it. Slick wooden entry stairs were scrubbed clean. On the inside, the group worked in the kitchen, dining room, living room, two bedrooms, a hallway and small laundry/storage area. Interior doors were removed, painted then rehung. The kitchen needed wallpaper borders removed and the rough patches spackled/sanded. The kitchen, living room, dining room, both bedrooms, and the hall were all primed and painted. The trim was painted as well as the ceilings in these 6 areas. A wall in the laundry/storage area was removed then rebuilt with sturdy wood beams.



The homeowner, Mimi, will be framing a photo of the group in her home once the Certificate of Occupancy is approved. All who worked on the transformation signed the mat that will go around the photograph.

Thank you ECC for your support of this year's mission trip!



Julie's quartet is singing the national anthem at the Yard Goats game on Saturday August 5th at 6:10. Tickets are \$13 each (a savings of \$6) and we have field box seats. There are a limited number of tickets so please let Julie know if you would like any.
musicdirector@eccucc.org

Thank you, Lou Jeffery and Deb Wallace, for lending your green thumbs and floral talents to beautifying our sanctuary and grounds.



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

Missions approved the following donations this month:

- Provided ground hamburg, potatoes, carrots, soup, ketchup and mustard.
- Hands on Hartford \$500.00 over next year to their food bank.
- Ellington Human Services two cases of salad dressing per their request.
- Crystal Lake food pantry \$300.00 for food to place on their shelves.
- Vernon social services \$250.00 for kid's back to school clothes



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.

Midweek Faith & Fellowship



For 18 yr - early career adults
Wednesdays @ 7 pm

Gathering Wednesdays @ 7pm
over the summer

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 for more information.

Registration Open for the 2023-24 year!



**First Meeting:
8/27 @ 6:30pm**

Register your high school youth at:
<https://forms.gle/gDmwC2wSijjvGsMFA>

**TELOS vs Adults Volleyball at Rally Day Picnic
9/10/23 @ Arbor Park - 11:30am**



TELOS is no longer collecting bottles and cans at this time.

Please donate your returnables to a different organization/group over the summer.

Hopefully, the collection will resume after Labor Day.
Thank you for your support!

Prayer Shawl Group



The Prayer Shawl Group
next meeting is
September 28, 2023

Thank you everyone,
and enjoy your summer!

Ellington Congregational
Church



61st ANNUAL
FARMHOUSE FAIR

Join us for our next Farmhouse Fair
workshop, August 6th
following the service in the Social Room

Confirmation Classes Forming
for 2023-24



For youth in 9th grade

Minimum of 3 youth needed for classes to be scheduled.
Email Lee at christianed@eccucc.org to sign-up by 9/10/23

Blessing of Backpacks/Totes

Sunday, 8/27 @ 9:30am

Bring your
briefcase/totebag/backpack



Registration Open for Church School

Grades Preschool -8th: <https://forms.gle/QbX6Bit6FIgEE7wn6>



Ellington Congregational
Church

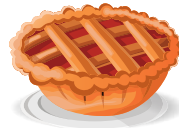


61st ANNUAL
FARMHOUSE FAIR

FARMHOUSE FAIR SAVE THE DATE! NOVEMBER 3-4, 2023

Homemade and Handmade

THE BAKERY



Goodies
Cookies, Pies
& other treats

CHRISTMAS SHOPPE



Christmas Items
Ornaments and
other Decor

FARMHOUSE FAIR CAFE

Breakfast Goodies - Coffee
Delicious Meals!
Sit a while or take it to-go



THE COOKIE BEES

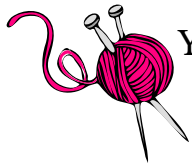


EVERYTHING ANIMALS

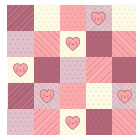
Items for pets
& wildlife



FAITHFUL FIBERS & FABRICS



Yarn, sewn and
quilted items



KIDS KORNER



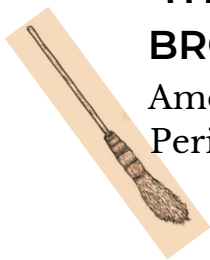
Little prices for
little kids
to shop for gifts!

RAGGEDY ANN & ANDY



THE COLONIAL BROOM SQUIRE

American Colonial
Period Demos and
Products



BOUNTIFUL BASKETS



GALS & DOLLS

Dolls & Doll Items



New This Year!!

TREASURE CHEST

Gently Used Items



CRAFTER'S COVE

Artistic crafted
items



All proceeds support church projects.

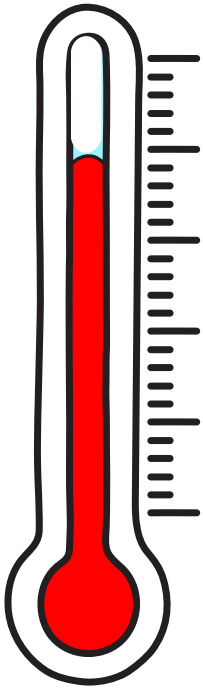
We appreciate your donations to support the church!

Questions can be directed via email to jenniferatraynor@yahoo.com

Season of the Bags of Gold/Talents



What will you do with 10 Gold Coins?



**\$1500
GOAL**

You are doing so well! The Talents are adding up at this point to just over \$1250! The proceeds all go into the church budget for 2023. There is still time to do a project to help us reach our financial goal. See/Contact Laurie Hazleton, Jol Spowles or Sharon McLaughlin for more information.

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.

**Handmade
Quilt
by Penny
Coming Soon!**

**Watch for details on
how to purchase
your raffle tickets.**

Computer Services

Is your computer giving you problems?
Need help with a printer?
Moving to a new computer?

I can help you with any of your home computing problems or questions. I can work with both Windows and Mac's.

Please call or email me at
brian.cocuzzo@gmail.com

Grandmother Zina's Heritage Cinnamon Buns



**\$1 each
Each Sunday
until Labor Day
during
Fellowship Hour**

BLUEBERRY BUCKLE

by Laurie!
**For Sale August 6th during
fellowship hour
\$10 for whole or
\$1 for one serving**



LAST CHANCE PICTURES DUE AUGUST 31!

**Please email your picture to:
outreach@eccucc.org.**

**We cannot use printed photos or
pictures from the old directory.**

**Please ask someone during
fellowship hour to take your picture
with their phone and email or text it
to 860-810-8993**

OUR MISSIONS COMMITTEE AT WORK FOR YOU

PART ONE - LOCAL

Matthew 25: 37-40 Then the righteous will answer him, "Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?"

The King will reply, "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." (NIV)



COMMUNITY KITCHEN

The ECC Missions Committee are wonderful stewards of the money that you give through your pledges and offerings throughout the year and the food you donate weekly and during holiday food drives. They really stretch the money that they receive to help with many ministries on behalf of all of us at Ellington Congregational Church. This article is to help you become familiar with some of those organizations that are regular recipients of your generosity.

WHAT HAPPENS TO THE MONEY YOU GIVE THAT THE MISSION COMMITTEE HANDLES?

TELOS: Starting at our own church, our Missions Committee contributed \$2,500 to the TELOS Mission Trip to Athens, Tennessee in July. That covered the cost of one van – two full size and one smaller vehicle were needed to transport 22 people. This is valuable program that ECC offers to high school students to perform hands-on mission work in US areas in need each year.

The TELOS program contributes to the Christian education of young adults while contributing meaningful and needed work in the wider community.

Additional Food: Because food is in constant need, many times the committee will supplement your weekly food donations by purchasing perishable food items for these same organizations.

Ellington Human Services: In addition to running their food pantry, they offer many programs to meet the needs of Ellington families and senior citizens, from transportation to tax assistance. Our Missions Committee has provided additional support to them through donations for mental health for children, a summer barbeque, Christmas gifts for 3 seniors in need, and gift cards for Christmas gifts. Visit <https://www.ellington-ct.gov/departments-and-services/human-services>

Cornerstone Community Kitchen: 15 Prospect Street, Rockville. The Missions Committee buys food such as 50 pounds of hamburger at a time and other perishable items, and delivers it to the kitchen which serves lunch every day and dinner Monday through Friday, to typically 40 – 50 people. Many times, the committee is responding to last minute urgent requests from Cornerstone. (Carolyn Bunick is currently organizing an ECC Team to help with meal prep and serving once a month.)

Cornerstone Shelters and Cornerstone Clothing Bank: Cornerstone operates 3 shelters, and a clothing bank which the Mission Committee also supports. The special birthday bag donations, personal hygiene supplies, and paper goods that you give help these shelters.

The Hockanum Valley Community Council Food Pantry: This organization offers many services to local families such as counseling, case management, and transportation. Your offerings have helped the



HOMELESS SHELTERS

committee to donate toward mental health support for children, elder care, and mental health support for adults. Their website is <https://www.hvcchelps.org/>

Hands On Hartford is another outstanding organization supported by our Missions Committee. They provide food, shelter and health programs to people in need in Hartford. One of their many programs is *Gather55*, a pay-what-you-can restaurant with options for paying the posted price or a minimum of \$2.00 and volunteer opportunities. They also have vouchers for those who cannot pay or volunteer. Our Missions supports *Gather55*, but if you are moved to help in one of our own cities in Connecticut, there are many opportunities to help Hands on Hartford. Their website is <https://handsonhartford.org/>

Walk Against Hunger: The committee was able to sponsor a church member's efforts to raise funds for CT Foodshare.

Vernon Human Services receive our support for back-to-school clothes and gift cards for Christmas gifts.

Maple Street School in Vernon receives backpacks, water bottles and socks for children in need.

Camp Newhoca scholarships: The committee was able to pay the cost for three children in need in Rockville so that they could attend this summer camp. Please read more about the camp here: https://vernonct.myrec.com/info/activities/program_details.aspx?ProgramID=30148

Next month - What happens to the food you give?

Canned Goods Collections Aug 13 and Aug 20

URGENT HELP NEEDED

All the food shelves are low on canned goods!



Tuna
Pasta Dinners
Veggies
Fruits
Chicken
Soups w/Protein
Beef Stew

Cornerstone Community Kitchen Volunteers Needed

Now Forming an ECC Team to work at the kitchen one Thurs/month. Choice of:

- Prep 1-4 pm
- Serve 4-6 pm
- Both prep and serve

For further information or to sign up: Carolyn Bunick 860-871-8689 or carolynbunick@yahoo.com

Shopping Cart Ministry

August 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 as grocery store gift cards.

MEET THE COMMITTEE – BOARD OF DEACONS

This month we are featuring the Board of Deacons. This Board, along with the Pastor, work cohesively as a group to guide the congregation in spiritual life.

The Board of Deacons plays an important role in the church. We foster spiritual development of individuals and the congregation as a whole. By planning a variety of services, we hope to reach and satisfy our congregants' need for spiritual development. There are a number of different duties performed by the Deacons which help to ensure this happens.

Deacons are responsible for the administration of the Sacraments, the preparation and serving of Communion, and assisting the Pastor with baptisms. We also visit congregants who are home-bound, serving communion to those who wish to receive it.

When visitors are in attendance, the Deacon on Duty approaches the visitor(s), making sure he/she they/them are comfortable in having everything they need for service. In addition, the Deacon then will invite him/her they/them to the Social Hour and introduce the visitors to our congregants.

Another important role of the Deacons is to welcome new members and attend the New Members meeting to share the scope of the Diaconate duties. We then work with the new members, along with Growth and Nurture and the Pastor, to help assimilate them into the congregation.

There also are several special church service roles for which the Deacons are responsible. These include the services and activities associated with Lent and Easter Seasons that are especially spiritual. The Deacons assist the Pastor on Ash Wednesday, helping with the delivery of the Ashes. The Service of Tenebrae is especially moving for those who have attended. Our Tenebrae Service takes place on Maundy Thursday and recounts the somber events that led up to Jesus' burial on Good Friday. During this season, we are also responsible for encouraging people to sign up to be a part of the Prayer Vigil which begins at noon on Good Friday and concludes Easter Morning at 6:00 AM.

During Advent, we prepare the Advent Wreath. It is during this time we are preparing as a church for the coming of Christ. Advent leads us to Christmas with the beautiful service of Christmas Eve. Deacons assist with offering Communion at the 10:00 P.M. service. Each year the Deacons plan and attend a retreat that focuses on spiritual renewal. This is an important time for us to connect with each other, to strengthen our bonds, and to set goals for our upcoming year.

Last but not least, we are responsible for several formal coffee hours throughout the year such as the New Members Coffee Hour and the Confirmand Reception.

Serving our faith community by being on this board is extremely fulfilling. If you have a strong commitment to worship and a desire to be a part of the spiritual development of our church, please consider becoming a Deacon. You can contact Pastor Joanne, Jane Scordato or Beth Tautkus.

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.

1 Chronicles 16:34 *Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever.*

Dear Women of ECC,

We hope you are enjoying the summer months. It is hard to believe that we are already in August. Our Executive Board is not meeting until September, but Farmhouse Fair workshops continue.

Our next Farmhouse Fair workshop is scheduled for Sunday, August 6, 2023, following worship in the Social Room. Jen will be leading the workshop and we will be making glass bowl décor.

Sacred Stitches will not be meeting in August. They will begin meeting again on the third Thursday of each month from 9:00 a.m. to noon in September, and their next meeting is Thursday, September 21, 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.

Please save the date! Saturday, October 14 is the Fall Festival at the Ellington Historical Society. We will be offering a sneak peek of items to be sold at the upcoming Farmhouse Fair at the Festival. If you are interested in helping that day (we are not selling, just displaying some items and greeting folks), please see Jen Traynor. Another person is needed for the 10 a.m. to noon time slot.

Please watch the bulletins and emails for other upcoming workshops for the Farmhouse Fair. The dates of the Farmhouse Fair are Friday, November 3, and Saturday, November 4, 2023. The Farmhouse Fair always generates lots of excitement.

Our next Women's Fellowship Executive Board meeting is Friday, September 8, 2023, at 1:00 p.m. on Zoom.

Blessings,

Penny Gates and Sharon McLaughlin, Co-Presidents



Trustees Corner

August 2023

James 1:17: Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.

There are several projects happening at the church right now, under the purview of the Trustees. First, we are continuing to have the fire doors brought up to code. Additionally, the Trustees have accepted a bid to replace the wooden exterior doors (side entrance near the driveway) with metal doors that look similar, because the wooden doors are not repairable.

The toilet paper dispensers have been replaced!

The office safe will also be replaced because the locking mechanism is worn and nonreplaceable.

The oil rebate program is underway. The details are on our website. Our church receives a rebate based on the purchases by the congregation, and the pricing is advantageous to the congregation, as well. This is a win-win for our friends and members as well as the church.

The emergency lighting is being replaced with new LED units. Also, the Trustees have accepted a bid from Earthlight Technologies to update the remaining interior lighting in the church. This does not include the sanctuary, which was already done. The total cost with Earthlight is \$11,943 and the energy-savings incentive from Eversource is \$9,276. The net cost will be \$2,667 and the estimated energy savings will pay for the net cost in under two years.

There is a 60- inch television now located in the nursery, which is set up for watching our Sunday service via livestream, just as some currently do from home. The television has been mounted on the wall. Thank you to the Guilds for their donation of the television.

Finally, the exterminator came in July to deal with carpenter ants at the church. So, that issue should now be resolved

Blessings,
Chas Gross, Chair of Trustees

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

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

Office email: OfficeAdmin@eccucc.org

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

Joanne Myer, Intentional
Interim Minister

christianed@eccucc.org

Lee Carman, Youth &
Children Faith Formation
Director

musicdirector@eccucc.org

Juliane 'Julie' LaRocca,
Director of Music

outreach@eccucc.org

Jill McAllister, Outreach &
Media Coordinator/ Website