



# The Church Caller

*A monthly publication of the Ellington Congregational Church, UCC*      *September 2023*

Sunday Worship 9:30 / Church School 9:30  
10:00 service and school starting on 9/10/23  
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](http://www.eccucc.org) for details



Senior Choir Starts  
September 7, 2023  
7:00 pm



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



Rally Sunday Church Picnic  
September 10, 2023  
11:45 am - Arbor Park



Junior Choir Starts  
September 17, 2023  
11:20 am



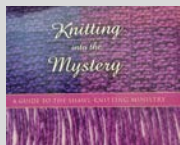
Senior & Junior Bell Choirs Start  
September 17, 2023  
11:40 am



Sacred Stitches  
September 21, 2023  
9:00 am - Social Room



Congregational Meeting  
September 24, 2023  
11:15 am



Prayer Shawl  
September 28, 2023  
9:30 am - Social Room



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

## Interim Process Update

If you have signed up in the past to be part of the process, expect to hear from your small group facilitator later this month after Rally Sunday to schedule your next session.

As you have been hearing from the pulpit, when you consider the gun violence, natural tragedies, anger and despair that many are facing in our world, there has never been a stronger need for ECC to shine as a beacon of hope, stability, comfort and positive action.

These next meetings are critical in our work to meet the challenges that our young people especially are and will be facing in the future.

**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.**

# BACK IN SESSION FOR 2023-2024!

Contact the church office with questions and contacts for each program

**CHURCH SCHOOL - Preschool through 8th Grade**

register: <https://forms.gle/QbX6Bit6F1Gee7wn6>

**CONFIRMATION CLASS - 9TH Grade**

email: [christianed@eccucc.org](mailto:christianed@eccucc.org)

**T.E.L.O.S. for High School Teens**

register: <https://forms.gle/gDmwc2wSijJvGsMFA>

**S.E.E.D. Middle School Teens**

If interested, please email: [christianed@eccucc.org](mailto:christianed@eccucc.org)

**FRIENDSHIP CLASS - all ages - This ministry meets the first Tuesday of the month, 1:00 p.m. in Room 201. It is a time of thoughtful sharing, many times involving Bible stories or book discussions. All are welcome! First session is Sept 5th.**

**PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY - all ages**

This ministry meets the 4th Thursday each month in the social room at 9:30 am.

Patterns are provided - please drop in!

**SACRED STITCHES MINISTRY - all ages**

This ministry meets the 3rd Thursday of the month in the social room at 9:00 am.

Bring your sewing machine and sewing kit. We have lots of fabric and patterns

available. Not a quilter? Not to worry. We can show you how.

## Shopping Cart Ministry September Most Needed Items

- Cans of stew, chicken, tuna
- Canned pasta meals
- Ramen noodles
- Spaghetti sauce in plastic jars
- (such as Francesco Rinaldi)
- Pouches of instant potatoes
- Rice side dishes (such as Rice-A-Roni, Knorr side dishes)



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

Join us for

# RALLY SUNDAY

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

**09/10/2023**

10:00 Worship Service

10:00 Church School

11:45 Picnic at Arbor Park  
**Free Live Concert - The Score**  
**Reptiles & Amphibians**  
**interactive exhibit**

**GET TO KNOW OUR VIBRANT  
CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY!**



**Worship 10:00**

Featuring Pastor Joanne Myer, Music Director Juliane LaRocca, and Director of Faith Formation Lee Carman

**Church School 10:00**

Children will begin in the Sanctuary with their families, and then will exit together to meet their teachers.

All are welcome! BYO lunch, blanket/chairs

**Arbor Park Free Concert! 11:45**

- Live rock music from **The Score**
- Reptiles and Amphibians interactive, educational program presented by Riverside Reptiles Education Center
- Cornhole, volleyball, and games for all ages

**Visit [www.eccucc.org](http://www.eccucc.org) to learn more and to register for church school, confirmation class and youth groups. Jr, Sr, and Bell Choirs forming now!**

### ***The place to grow your faith:***

TELOS High School Youth, SEED Middle School Youth, Prayer Shawl Ministry, Local and National Mission Opportunities, Adult and Jr Choirs, Bell Choir, Sacred Dance, Sacred Stitches, Bible Studies, Farmhouse Fair, Women's Fellowship, Book Groups and more!

# TALENTS ARE GOLD



## 2024 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

### *Giving Feels Good When You Give Your Time, Talent or Treasure*

**September 24:** Stewardship Kick-off: Look forward to inspiring moments presented by our Stewardship Committee. Please seriously consider your role in furthering the Ellington Congregational Church's mission.

**October 22:** Consecration Sunday: After prayerfully considering your financial pledge for 2024, present your pledge during this service and receive its blessing - It's a great feeling!

**October 22:** Thanksgiving Food Drive Kick-Off: Blue bags for your food donations will be available for pickup at church. We will have flyers that can be distributed to the public. Please take some if you can help spread the word among your neighbors and workplaces.

**November 12:** Thanksgiving food drive: With help from the scouts and others, we will receive our congregation's food donations along with donations from our wider community. These collections of traditional Thanksgiving meal items will be given to our local food pantries, so that the celebration of Thanksgiving can be felt by more people.



## 2023-2024 Music Programs Express Your Faith with Music

The Ellington Congregational Church has a rich musical history with our fantastic vocal and bell choirs.

We are now forming Junior and Senior choirs for the upcoming season. Hone your musical skills and learn new ones.

Choirs are open to all, members and non-members.  
No auditions - come and join the fun!

**Senior Choir ~ 9/7/23 Thurs 7:00 pm**

**Junior Choir ~ 9/17/23 Sun 11:20 am**

**Senior Bell & Junior Bell Choirs ~ 9/17/23 Sun 11:40**

Weekly practices with special performances during Christmas.

Questions? Contact our Music Director Juliane LaRocca: [musicdirector@eccucc.org](mailto:musicdirector@eccucc.org)

## Blessing of the Animals

Sunday, Oct 8th @ 1pm on the Green

Bring your critters to be blessed by  
Ellington Congregational Church's pastor and youth!



Rain date Oct 15th

Thank you, Jol Sprowles,  
for your many unique  
talents that you willingly  
offer at ECC - from music  
& pastries to leadership  
roles - along with your  
wonderful voice!



## Trunk or Treat

Sunday, 10/29 ~ 11:30am - 1pm

### 3 ways to participate:

- Donate candy or treats to be given out
- Decorate your trunk and hand out goodies
- Bring your kids/grands to trick or treat



# OUR MISSIONS COMMITTEE AT WORK FOR YOU

## PART TWO - ADDRESSING FOOD INSECURITY

*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)*

### WHAT HAPPENS TO THE FOOD YOU GIVE THAT THE MISSION COMMITTEE HANDLES?

In addition to using part of their annual mission budget to purchase food when there are urgent requests from the food pantries, the Mission Committee also handles the weekly and monthly donations made to the Grocery Cart ministry. They communicate regularly with the pantries to learn what the biggest needs are at given times, so that we can inform you.

The need for food assistance continues to grow and they witness the struggles of each food pantry that serves our neighbors in and around Ellington. Thank you for your help and please continue to support the Grocery Cart Ministry and know you are helping your neighbors when you do so.



HVCC FOOD PANTRY



CRYSTAL LAKE FOOD PANTRY

**Ellington Human Services:** The Ellington Human Services Food Pantry is located at the Human Services Department, 31 Arbor Way. Food is distributed on a monthly basis. You must be an Ellington resident and meet the income requirements in order to receive food from the Food Pantry. Visit <https://www.ellington-ct.gov/departments-and-services/human-services/food-bank>

**Crystal Lake Food Pantry:** <https://www.clfoodpantry.org/> 278 Sandy Beach Rd (Route 140), Ellington This food shelf is run out of the community room at the United Methodist Church of Crystal Lake.

**Cornerstone Food Cupboard:** Clients may come for food once a week on Tuesday or Saturday. They will receive four pre-packed bags of food containing: nonperishable food items, frozen meat, produce, and bread/pastry. They are open Tuesdays 9:00 am - 12:00 pm and Saturdays 12:00 pm - 2:00 pm. Last Sat they served 91 families and then 109 families on Tuesday.

**The Hockanum Valley Community Council Food Pantry:** "Available to anyone struggling with Food Insecurity regardless of residency since 1970." 29 Naek Road, Suite 5a, Vernon For more information visit [www.hvcchelps.org/pantry](http://www.hvcchelps.org/pantry).



CORNERSTONE FOOD CUPBOARD



# **CALL TO A CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

Members of the Ellington Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, of Ellington, Connecticut, are hereby notified that a Congregational Meeting will take place on **Sunday, September 24, 2023 following the 10:00 service.**

The purpose of the meeting shall be:

- To vote to extend the temporary by-laws adjustments re-approved in October 2022.

## **Re-Introducing the Church Planning Team**

The Church Planning Team (CPT), chaired by Brian Cocuzzo, has been restarted. CPT was organized by the Prudential Committee after the work of the church's Visioning Team was completed. Its work was paused during COVID.

The responsibilities of the CPT are:

1. To help board, committees, groups and individuals implement projects – We want to help groups and individuals connect and to provide the support needed to bring ideas to fruition. While our primary focus will initially be on the 6 visioning themes, we will be supportive of all ideas that are brought to us and will help the group or individual plan and prioritize the project. Our role is not to have ownership of these projects but rather, to be facilitators and enablers.
2. To communicate what is being accomplished with each of the visioning themes – We want to ensure that the congregation sees where we as a congregation are making progress on each theme, when we are “stuck”, and how individuals can be of service to these initiatives. We want to come up with innovative ways of informing the whole congregation and to help them connect with projects that they are passionate about. We will do this both using technology and with regular, old fashion methods, like church announcements and caller articles to make sure that everyone is reached and everyone who chooses, can be heard and connected.
3. Plan and run the church's annual Summit meeting.
4. Keep the visioning process alive – We want to ensure that, as things change, that we continue to evolve our vision of God's calling for our church. This team will continue to engage the congregation in conversations about where we are and where we are going.

CPT completed 3 projects prior to COVID:

1. Created a job description for an Outreach and Media Coordinator.
2. Helped Diaconate organize the team needed to create the discernment process for becoming an Open and Affirming church.
3. Planned and ran the 2020 Annual Summit.



# FARMHOUSE FAIR

## SAVE THE DATE!

### NOVEMBER 3-4, 2023

*Home-made and Hand-made*

#### YOU CAN HELP THE FAIR NOW BY MAKING THE FOLLOWING DONATIONS:

- PET toys, sweaters, food dishes & any unique pet things
- Wildlife food and care items
- Items that kids would want to buy as gifts for their parents, siblings and friends, such as jewelry, home decorations, accessories and toys.
- Your handmade crafts, art, sewn and yarn products
- Doll Dresses - American Girl Size

**NEW: TREASURE CHEST** - please donate your gently used, clean adult items.

**PLEASE NO** books, clothes or items larger than a toaster.

### Items for everyone at the fair!



#### EVERYTHING ANIMALS

Items for pets and wildlife



#### KID'S KORNER

Little prices for little kids to shop for gifts!



#### FAITHFUL FIBERS & FABRICS

Yarn, sewn and quilted items



#### CHRISTMAS SHOPPE

Christmas items, ornaments and other decor



#### BOUNTIFUL BASKETS

Themed gift baskets



#### COLONIAL BROOM SQUIRE

Period broom and brush items and demos



#### GALS & DOLLS

American Girl style doll items



#### RAGGEDY ANN & ANDY

Handmade dolls and clothing

### NEW THIS YEAR



#### TREASURE CHEST

Gently Used Items



#### CRAFTERS' 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](mailto:jenniferatraynor@yahoo.com)





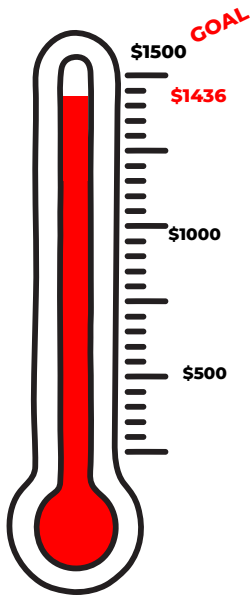
## Season of the Bags of Gold/Talents

*What will you do with 10 Gold Coins?*

This program has been extended till the end of October - there's still time to participate!

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.



### Quilt by Penny

45" x 54"

Tickets are \$15 each  
or 2 for \$25



Beautifully made quilt is being raffled off. Raffle tickets are available for sale in the social room during Fellowship Hour following worship for the next few Sundays.

The Pictorial Member Directory is scheduled to be in the pews before the end of October. Thank you to all who submitted their photos and to our advertisers. It is not too late to order ad space - all proceeds will pay for the printing and any additional will go to the Talents Project. Please contact Jill outreach@eccucc.org for information.

### 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

**Thank you for your support of these successful projects!**

Charcuterie Demonstration Class

Cornhole Game Set

Name Your Sermon

Blueberry Buckle

Christmas Party in July

Grandmother Zina's Heritage Cinnamon Buns

## MEET THE COMMITTEE – STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

This month we are highlighting the Stewardship Committee, and our Bylaws specify that Stewardship is in charge of enlisting resources for the financial support of the whole church and its program, working with the Board of Trustees and Missions.

Some of the ways that Stewardship has fulfilled these duties is by the coordination and implementation of the Stewardship Campaign and distributing the pledge cards. They also plan and share stewardship messages with the congregation in a variety of ways including messages from the pulpit, skits and printed messages.

Stewardship coordinates our Thanksgiving Dinner Drive and Easter Dinner Drive with Missions each year. They focus on the time and talent of our congregation as well as the needed financial resources. The Season of the Bags of Gold/Talents project was sponsored and supported by the Stewardship Committee in 2023.

There are several spiritual gifts, which would be beneficial to those serving on the Stewardship Committee. Leadership and encouragement for the congregation to consider their financial contribution to the church are two of them. The gift of administration for planning and organizing the Stewardship campaign, food drives, and other projects is a good fit as well.

The Stewardship Committee is a creative committee that works to improve all aspects of time, talent and treasure shared by our church community. The variety of spiritual gifts that would enhance the work of the committee include, but are certainly not limited to what is listed above. If you enjoy helping to encourage and engage the congregation, plan and implement projects, and support community needs like our holiday food-drives, our Stewardship Committee may be the right place for you.

Please contact Bryan Forst, Chair of the Stewardship Committee, if you are interested in joining or would like additional information.

You may also speak with Pastor Joanne about any of our Boards & Committees.

# 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.*

Genesis 8:22 As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease. (NIV)

Dear Women of ECC,

Dates of the **Farmhouse Fair** are **Friday, November 3** and **Saturday, November 4, 2023**. Please save the dates!

On **Saturday, October 14** in conjunction with the Ellington Historical Society Fall Fair, we will be offering a preview of our Fair. Right now, this will be a few tables manned by Dottie and Laurie. One more person is needed to help staff this event. Please see Jen Traynor if you are able to help.

Sacred Stitches is meeting on the third Thursday of each month from 9:00 a.m. to noon in the Social Room. The next meeting is September 21, 2023. Everyone who wants to sew is welcome to join. Please contact Jan Schaeffer at 860-875-5581 with any questions.

Our next Women's Fellowship Executive Board meeting is Friday, September 8, 2022 at 1:00 p.m. on Zoom.

Save the Dates! **Rally Sunday is Sunday, September 10, 2023** and we will be at Arbor Park following our worship service. This is an all-church event hosted by our Board of Christian Education and our Growth and Nurture Committee. Everyone is welcome! It will be a fun afternoon to visit and catch up as we move into one of the busiest times of our church year.

Women's Fellowship is also planning an **All-Church potluck on Saturday, November 18, 2023** in the Social Room beginning at 5:00 p.m. This is a celebratory potluck for the success of the Fair and it is for our entire church. All are welcome. Please join us. More details will be forthcoming.

Blessings,

Penny Gates and Sharon McLaughlin, Co-Presidents

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

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

**Lee Carman**, Youth &  
Children Faith Formation  
Director

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

**Juliane 'Julie' LaRocca**,  
Director of Music

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

**Jill McAllister**, Outreach &  
Media Coordinator/ Website