



The Church Caller

A monthly publication of the Ellington Congregational Church, UCC

December 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 for details

Winterfest

December 2, 2023

Gingerbread House Exhibit

2:00 - 6:30 in room 201

Bells & Music

3:00 - 3:45 Sanctuary

Winterfest Cafe

4:00 - 6:30 Social Room



Friendship Class

December 5, 2023

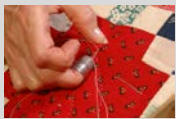
1:00 pm - Rm 201



Poinsettia Orders

Deadline

December 7, 2023



Sacred Stitches

December 21, 2023

9:00 am - Social Room



Mission Collection

December 24, 2023

Stop&Shop, Big Y and Aldi
Gift Cards

Everyone's Birthday Party

Jan 21, 2024

Social Room during
Fellowship Hour



T.E.L.O.S

Chili cook-off/
Brownie bake-off

January 28, 2024

11:30am - Social Room

"Oh Come Let Us Adore Him"
Join Us in Anticipation and Celebration

Advent and Christmas 2023

December 3 ~ 10:00 am

1st Sunday of Advent

Bell Sunday

December 10 ~ 10:00 am

2nd Sunday of Advent

New Members

December 17 ~ 10:00 am

3rd Sunday of Advent

Christmas Pageant

December 21 ~ Thursday ~ 7:00 pm

Hope-filled Blue Christmas/Longest Night Service

A service of reflection, comfort, healing, grace and hope

December 24 ~ 10:00 am

4th Sunday of Advent - Christmas Eve

Morning Family Worship in Social Room

Prayers, Crafts and Carols

December 24 ~ Christmas Eve Worship ~ 5:00 pm

Christmas Cantata

December 24 ~ Christmas Eve Worship ~ 10:00 pm

Candlelight service - Sacrament of Holy Communion

December 31 ~ Christmas Carols and Lessons

Worship ~ 10:00 pm

Reminder!

If you chaired a committee, event, or ministry in 2023, your annual report is due to the church office by Dec 15. Please begin preparing your video recording which is a brief summary of your activities to be shared at the annual meeting in January.

Thank you!



Poinsettia Orders Due Dec 7

2023 CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA ORDER FORM

Orders are due by Thursday, December 7, 2023.

You may order and pay online. Visit www.eccucc.org and click on the Poinsettia tab at the top of the page. Or you may fill out this form and return it to the Church Office by Thursday, December 7, 2023, along with your Cash or Check payment. Make checks payable to Ellington Congregational Church. If you have any questions please call the Church Office.

Name: _____

Phone: _____

I/we wish to order _____ Poinsettia(s) at \$15.00 each

In memory of: _____

Given by: _____

In memory of: _____

Given by: _____

In honor/celebration of: _____

Given by: _____

Total due: _____ Cash Check # _____

You are invited to take your plant home with you after one of the Christmas Eve Services on Dec. 24th
All plants left will be used to adorn the Sanctuary into the New Year. Thank you!



ECC's 2023 Christmas Mission Program To Benefit Our Local Food Banks

Seeking Your \$25 Grocery Gift Card Donations

Please put the gift card(s) with the activation receipt in an envelope and mail them to the church office by December 24th or drop them off any Sunday in the offertory basket while attending worship.



PLEASE SHARE YOUR ... *time - skills - interests*

As a Congregational church, we are governed and sustained only by our members. Through the service of all our members, we are able to provide education, programs, care, fellowship, ministries and so much more toward bettering our world.

At this time of year, we need to fill our committees for 2024. If you are not currently serving on a committee, or if you would like to switch to a new committee, please contact Sharon McLaughlin, 860-875-8808. She can help find a place where your skills and interests will match a need. There is much need, and you can make a difference.

If you are not a member of ECC, your service is still important. You may assist committees without being a voting member or holding an officer position. Please help build on the strength of our Christian community and our mission in the world.

Small Group Interim Discussions

Thank you to all who have been participating in the discussions. Your willingness to share your beliefs with each other is commendable! Feedback so far is that the questions you have pondered together have been deep and challenging, with thoughtful contributions from everyone.

Pastor Joanne will be meeting with the facilitators to consolidate their notes and to determine the next steps. Please stay tuned!



Hope-filled Blue Christmas Longest Night Service

Thursday, December 21, 2023

7:00 p.m. ~ Sanctuary

All Are Welcome

Holidays are not always a merry or happy time for everyone.
With prayer and hymns we will give thanks for God's gifts of
Hope, Love, Joy and Peace.

We invite you to join us for this service of
reflection, comfort, healing, grace and hope.

This Season of Giving

At this time of year, we reflect on the blessings we've received in 2023. Our response in gratitude can be through the joy of giving, and helping those less fortunate.

There are several ways that you can give:

- Catch up on your 2023 pledge before December 29.
- Contribute to the 2023 Christmas appeal. This money goes to our 2023 general budget.
- Make an offering at the Christmas Eve services which goes to the Pastor's Discretionary Fund.
- Donate directly to the Missions committee. They receive requests from the wider community all year long.

Thank you for your generosity.



**The ECC Children's
Christmas Play**

December 17
10:00 am

God's Gift to Us
Written by: Kendra Smiley
Published by David C Cook
Copyright 2004 by David C Cook

Shopping Cart Ministry December Most Needed Items



Crystal Lake Pantry is requesting:

- Canned pears
- Pancake mix
- Pancake syrup
- Corned beef hash

Cornerstone is requesting:

- Peanut butter
- Canned tuna
- Canned pasta
- Ramen noodles
- Rice-A-Roni or Knorr rice side dishes
- Canned fruit
-
- Pasta sauce in plastic jars or cans
- Pouches of instant potatoes

Thank you, Beth Cocuzzo,
for all the ways you have
served ECC over the years
- Christian Ed, FHF,
Growth & Nurture,
Waitress and so much
more! (and always with a
smile!)



Final Update - Season of the Bags of Gold/Talents

What will you do with 10 Gold Coins?

Thank you to all who participated in the Season of the Bags of Gold/Talents project in some way. Our Stewardship Committee coordinated the project and members of the congregation and pastor offered quite an array. These included Grandma Zina's Heritage Buns (Jol S.), Sermons Auctions (Pastor Joanne), Quilt Raffle (Penny G.), Blueberry Buckle (Laurie H.), Charcuterie Board Class (Marcie R.), Computer Services (Brian C.), Corn Hole Boards (Lisa & David S.), Four-course Dinner (Jane S.), and Turtle Conservation Basket Raffle (Pastor Joanne).

We also had two projects by teams – Christmas in July (Team Janet W., Sharon M., Cassie, Scott, Janice S. and Tammy N.) plus Pictorial Directory (Team Jill, Jeff, Beth C., Beth T., and Marcie R.).

The Season of the Bags of Gold/ Talents ran from April 16 – October 31, 2023. We netted \$2,621 for the fundraising line of the church operating budget 2023. Thanks to everyone who offered a project and also a heart-felt thanks to everyone who financially supported our efforts.

Blessings,
Sharon McLaughlin

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 Thessalonians 5:16-18 Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

Dear Women of ECC,

We have so much for which to be grateful. The 61st Annual Farmhouse Fair was a wonderful success, again! On Friday night, Joann S. and team sold out of their delicious, Italian-style dinner and soup! Our traditional Chicken a la King was offered again on Saturday for luncheon. We had a full slate of rooms and booths, including our American Colonial Broom Squire, Bakery, Bountiful Baskets, Cookie Bees, Christmas Shoppe, Faithful Fabrics, Faithful Fibers, Gals & Dolls, Kids Corner, Raggedy Ann & Andy and Everything Animals and Plants. New this year were Treasure Chest and Crafters Cove. The Fair was just lovely and so many compliments were shared about the food and crafted items. We are still working on the numbers as all expenses have not come in yet, but grossed \$9,525.12 this year.

We thank everyone who helped and/or supported the Farmhouse Fair this year. Jen Traynor did an excellent job as Farmhouse Fair Chair and was helped by the Farmhouse Fair Booth/Table Chairs and all of their volunteers. There were also many behind-the-scenes people who helped, such as those who prepped and cooked the food, dishwashers and bussers, parking lot attendants, wait staff, those who manned tables and booths, those who worked all year creating crafts, doll clothes, Raggedy Anns, and the many various knitted, crocheted or sewn items. We also had help from the staff, especially Jill (publicity / marketing), Caroline (endless copies of menus, flyers and more) and Pastor Joanne (who chaired our Bountiful Baskets tables and created the baskets with help). We also had volunteers to setup and take down, clear out and make phone calls. The Farmhouse Fair is truly a collaborative effort! It is absolutely important to have all the Fair workers and volunteers, but those who financially support the Fair are also integral to our success. Thank you, all!

Sacred Stitches meets on the third Thursday of each month from 9:00 a.m. to noon, but they are not meeting until January 17, 2024.

Merry Christmas and Happy 2024!

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

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