



# The Church Caller

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

*January 2024*

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!*

**CHURCH CLOSINGS  
ARE POSTED TO WFSB  
TV AND WEBSITE, THE  
ECC FACEBOOK PAGE,  
AND THE ECC WEBSITE.**

## Upcoming Events

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



**Friendship Class**  
January 2, 2024  
1:00 pm - Rm 201



**Sacred Stitches**  
January 18, 2024  
9:00 am - Social  
Room



**Everyone's  
Birthday Party**  
Jan 21, 2024  
Social Room during  
Fellowship Hour



**Prayer Shawl**  
January 25, 2024  
9:30 am - Social  
Room



**Annual Meeting**  
January 25, 2024  
In-person

**T.E.L.O.S  
Chili cook-off/  
Brownie bake-off**  
January 28, 2024  
11:30am - Social Room



## Call to the Annual Meeting of the Ellington Congregational Church United Church of Christ Thursday, January 25, 2024

**6:00 pm: Potluck Dinner!**

- Last names beginning N - Z, please bring a side dish or salad to share.
- Last names beginning A - M, please bring a main dish to share. Desserts and beverages will be provided.

**7:00 pm: Business Meeting Call to Order**



**THE CALL:** Members of the Ellington Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, of Ellington, Connecticut, are hereby notified that the Annual Meeting of this Church will take place on Thursday, January 25, 2024. Friends of the Church are warmly invited to attend, although they may not vote. There will be a potluck supper at 6:00 PM followed by our annual business meeting at 7:00 PM.

**AGENDA:** The purpose of the meeting shall be:

- 1) To receive the reports of the officers, boards and committees, and organizations
- 2) To vote to accept the proposed budget
- 3) To receive the reports of the Nominating Committee and to elect new members to fill vacancies of church officers, boards and committees
- 4) To undertake any further business which may properly come before the church.

IT'S EVERYONE'S  
*Birthday Party*

21 JANUARY, 2024  
DURING SOCIAL HOUR FOLLOWING WORSHIP

We're celebrating birthdays  
for every month at the same  
time! with refreshments,  
games and fun!

*Worship  
in New  
Directions*

**Discover New Ways to  
Feel the Spirit Move You**

**January 24, 7pm**

Join Pastor Joanne and Music Director Julie as we explore a variety of ways to worship together, through music, prayer and discussion. All are welcome - no registration required. Come as you are!

**4th Wednesday of every month in the Sanctuary** (except Dec)

Ellington Congregational Church  
United Church of Christ



72 Main St, Ellington CT  
[www.eccucc.org](http://www.eccucc.org)



**Help save a life.**

Schedule your  
blood donation  
appointment today.



**BLOOD DRIVE - MONDAY - JANUARY 22, 2024  
10:00 - 3:00 in the church social room**

Perhaps you or someone you love has needed a blood transfusion? Won't you please take the time to help? If you're able to make this live saving gift, please set up an appointment online with the Red Cross ([www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org)) or Call 800-REDCROSS.

If you would like to be on a list of volunteers for helping at these blood drives regularly hosted by ECC, please contact Brian Cocuzzo at [brian.cocuzzo@gmail.com](mailto:brian.cocuzzo@gmail.com).

Thank you!

# Chili Cook-off & Brownie Bake-off!

Sunday, 1/28 @ 11:30 am

Snow date: 2/4

Volunteer Judges wanted: 3 for chili - 3 for brownies

Sign-up during Social Hours starting 1/7 or by emailing  
Lee at [christianed@eccucc.org](mailto:christianed@eccucc.org)



Enter your chili and/or brownies!

\$10 registration per entry

Unlimited tastings: \$5 per person

Vote for Peoples' Choice with dollars!

## 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.

If you find yourselves or loved ones hospitalized, either planned or unplanned, please reach out to Pastor Joanne, Laurie Hazleton or the Office.

You can never have too many positive thoughts and prayers.

Thank you, Lori Savino,  
for giving your time every  
week to handle all of the  
bookkeeping, bill paying,  
payroll, and chasing down  
expense approvals! We  
are blessed to have your  
dedication.

## Shopping Cart Ministry January 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

On behalf of T.E.L.O.S., I'd like to offer thanks and appreciation to those who generously gave funding to T.E.L.O.S. during 2023, and especially to those who continued to make financial contributions after the Mission Trip. Your thoughtfulness enabled our youth group to have a meaningful trip to Tennessee and initiated a great start to the 2024 Mission Trip planned for North Carolina. Thank you!!!

Wade Overgaard, Treasurer



## 2024 Music Programs Express Your Faith with Music

We are now forming the Junior choir 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!

**Junior Choir ~ 02/04/24 Sun 11:20 am**

Weekly practices with a special performance during Palm Sunday.  
For more information, contact our Music Director Juliane LaRocca:  
[musicdirector@eccucc.org](mailto:musicdirector@eccucc.org)



## 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.*

The members of the Board of Missions would like to thank the congregation for your generous response to the food collections throughout 2023, and the last three special collections which were greatly appreciated by the recipients.

You donated socks, underwear, t-shirts, cocoa, cookies, grocery cards, money and more! The Board worked diligently to accommodate the end-of-year requests that they always receive, and to collect and deliver the items to each service organization that we support.

Now as we enter 2024 and the harsh winter months, the needs are continuing to grow. Below is a recent note from the Cornerstone Food Shelf manager.

**Dear Cornerstone Food Cupboard Supporter,**

**As you probably know, I send out an updated “Most Needed” items list each quarter. Attached is the “winter” list. You also probably know that once the holidays are over, donations to food pantries such as ours decrease markedly.**

**The number of families coming to the Cupboard for food assistance continues to grow. This stressful economy has led to our having 615 households registered for that assistance, and that is 140 more households than just a year ago.**

**Any support you can provide the Cupboard will be greatly appreciated and will truly make a difference in many, many lives.**

**Thank you.**

**Lee Hay, Manager  
Cornerstone Food Cupboard**

# 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.

*Matthew 2:10-11 When they saw the star they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother, Mary, and they bowed down and worshipped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.*

Dear Women of ECC,

We wish you a very happy, spiritually-filled 2024 and a celebration for the next few days (until Epiphany) of the remainder of the twelve days of Christmas.

Our Farmhouse Fair netted over \$8,000 for 2023 and that amount, along with our reserved funds, forms the basis of our 2024 Women's Fellowship Budget. Women's Fellowship makes a yearly donation to the Church General Budget, provides donations to internal ministries such as Prayer Shawl, makes donations to Safe Grad parties, yearly scholarships, pays for a yearly commercial cleaning of the kitchen, and more. Thank you for supporting us.

**Our 2024 Women's Fellowship Budget Meeting will be held immediately following worship in the sanctuary on Sunday, January 14, 2024.** Please remain with us a few minutes to approve our Women's Fellowship budget.

**Sacred Stitches meets on the third Thursday of each month from 9:00 a.m. to noon, and the next meeting is January 18, 2024.**

Happy 2024!

Blessings, Penny Gates and Sharon McLaughlin, Co-Presidents



## Thank You For a Successful Winterfest Cafe and Music Performance!

Thank you to Joann Scott, TELOS, everyone that helped, everyone that donated, and everyone that came to eat! The event was a fantastic fundraiser for TELOS - Congratulations!

We also thank Julie LaRocca and ECC's choirs for showing Ellington our amazing musical talents for their enjoyment!



Thank you Lori Spielman (Ellington First Selectman), Lou Jeffery, and JoshVirkler (LuAnn's Bakery and Cafe) for being this year's thoughtful judges! Visit our facebook page for more pictures!



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

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

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