



## **The Chimes**

January 2022 Edition

Editor: Sherri Boldt

E-copy: Brian Hager

### **From the Pastor's Desk:**

*“Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.” Colossians 3:15-17*

Blessings to you for the New Year and Peace be with you. I hope you were able to find moments of quiet and peace over the Christmas holidays. I found solace in looking into the night sky, finding the moon and bright stars uplifting and calming. It also helps us to remember that even in the midst of chaos, the peace of Christ can reign within. This is a thought to hold onto as we step into the unknown of another new year accompanied by the strangeness of pandemic as well as global and local challenges.

Though every new day brings with it the unknown, there is also the assurance that the sun still shines – though behind rain clouds, just as God goes with us. I think that is the message we get from the wise men who followed the sign of the star. They didn't know where they were going, just how they were going to get there. They demonstrate a faithful way to approach life and living.

The words to the Colossians give us another way to live faithfully. Taking peace into every new day - no matter what we

may face - and doing all we do in Jesus' name. I pray Christ's peace finds a home in you, so as you step into the new year and each new day, you will know the deep comfort that peace brings.

In God's peace, **Sue**

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**CALL FOR ANNUAL MEETING  
OF  
*THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF  
NORTH STONINGTON***

Notice is hereby given to the members of the North Stonington Congregational Church of the annual meeting to be held on **Sunday, January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2022** following church services. It will be a hybrid meeting (in-person and via Zoom).

The purpose of the meeting will be to:

1. Act upon the reports of officers and committees of the church;
2. Hear and act upon the report of the budget committee;
3. Hear and act upon the report of the nominating committee;
4. Transact any other business proper to come before said meeting.



## **We are Rooted in Love!**

Truly, we have an amazing history of builders of faith, saints of the church, and we have been caring and loving stewards of the church ... 300 years:

“I am the church. You are the church. We are the church together!”

Sing out with the children with true faith and cheerfulness. Plan and pray for a decision about giving to keeping our congregation together in mission and ministry. Your offering or one time gift will make a difference.

Look around at all you have ... Do you see how blessed you are? Yes? Please share all that you can in support for our 2022 Budget.

**Thank you, Your Generosity Team**



## **Generosity Program Report for 2022**

***As of December 20<sup>th</sup>, 43 units responding with a sum of \$106,751 for our general fund***

***December 17<sup>th</sup>, 41 units responding with a sum of \$98,466***

***December 12<sup>th</sup>, 38 units responding with a sum of \$96,186***

***December 1<sup>st</sup>, 35 units responding with a sum of \$63,310***



***God made us to be Generous in Spirit  
– Giving out of our abundance!***

## **Church World Service will be Providing Kits**

The tornado outbreak December 10-11 took the lives of at least 88 people across five states and caused damage and economic losses projected at \$18 billion. As you have heard, there were a total of 34 confirmed tornadoes and one of the 34 confirmed tornadoes had an approximate 227-mile-long-path of destruction spanning four states, with 200 miles of destruction in Kentucky alone.

Our UCC states that our thoughts and prayers go out to the many communities impacted by this devastating series of storms in mid-December 2021, UCC has been in touch with the Conference Disaster Coordinators in Arkansas, Missouri, Illinois, Kentucky, Tennessee to extend our support.”

Monetary donations to UCC Disaster Appeals can be made here:

[www.ucc.org/appeal-severe-storms-2021](http://www.ucc.org/appeal-severe-storms-2021)

Also, churches are also encouraged to assemble Church World Service Emergency Clean-Up Buckets and School and Hygiene Kits. If you are interested, we can pull together to make some hygiene or school kits this winter. Regarding Clean Up Buckets, it is easier to make a donation to CWS for the cost of a bucket plus shipping: \$75 per bucket.

# **Kindness Matters for 2022**

*There are many slogans and quotes about choosing kindness ... It matters in this world where situations are reactive and so many cry out in anger and hate. That is not the way.*

*Learn to ...*



Kindfulness is like mindfulness; You have to practice it and develop a “sixth sense.” It is far easier to just “snap” at others when problems arise. Through practice, you will learn to first be kind to yourself, then in all of your relationships, and finally by expanding the reach of your kindness to others.

Why bother to develop kindness? First, being a kind person results in more personal happiness. Second, you will inspire others to be kind. And in turn, you will make the world a better and happier place.

Kindfulness is in practice here in Connecticut and beyond. As a result of the Sandy Hook School Shootings, Jesse Lewis' family found something he wrote and that is now a non-profit: "The Choose Love Movement." It was created in July of 2014. The Choose Love Movement is a community-led program offering free social and emotional learning to help people thoughtfully respond to any situation, circumstance, or interaction. Programs are offered in many schools and communities where people have sought out the movement. It offers lifespan learning tailored for any age from toddlers through adulthood. At the core of it all is a simple daily formula to help you learn and practice essential life-skills for improving the world around you.

We can all learn to react to situations with kindness, compassion, gratitude, and loving interactions. Just try.

YOU WILL  
NEVER REGRET  
BEING KIND



***NEW Year & A NEW Resolution  
Become a Builder!***

**Habitat for Humanity of Eastern Connecticut builds throughout New London and Windham counties, as well as in six towns in Tolland county.**

Current building project locations:

- 44, 46, 48 Sylvester Street, Norwich
- 47 Margerie Street, Norwich
- 127 Serwan Avenue, Willimantic

**Beginning soon:**

- 49 Margerie Street (Norwich)
- 50 Sylvester Street (Norwich)

**Why Build? Eva and her parents are counting on you at Sylvester Street.**

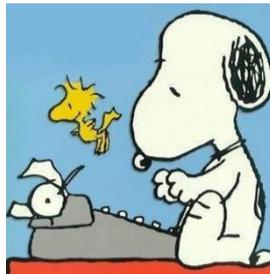
While shopping in our ReStore in Waterford, Eva spoke with our ReStore director, Kim, and told her she wanted to find her mom, Ivelisse, and stepdad, Carlos, a home that they could afford.

Kim suggested that her parents apply for a Habitat House and told Eva she should think about applying for herself and her daughter. Eva, Carlos, and Ivelisse applied for the homeownership program and both households were accepted to own a duplex we're building on Sylvester Street in Norwich. Eva and her daughter will live on one side, and her parents will live on the other. So exciting!

It is so easy to volunteer – all online for signing up and there will be a job you can do.

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From your Chimes Editor: Thank you all for your contributions to and help with the Chimes in 2021. Here's looking forward to another year of putting together the Chimes! Best wishes, Sherri Boldt ☺



# WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

*Ladies - Please Join Us !*

**Wednesday, January 19<sup>th</sup>**

**Noon Hewitt Hall**



**Brown Bag Lunch & our January Business Meeting:**

- Planning for the year
- Budget for 2022
- Review of Bazaar

*We are planning to safe distance & everyone must wear a mask.*

**All ladies are welcome!**

# 2021-22 MONTHLY MISSION PROJECTS

(To be approved by Mission Committee)

January 9	World Vision Hope Child, PROMOTION & Sign Ups
January 23	Habitat Sunday and collection
February	Pawcatuck Neighborhood Center (PNC) Fuel Fund
March	UCC One Great Hour collection
April	Care & Share, Part of Mystic Area Ecumenical Council
May	Church World Service (CWS) Blanket Project
June	-Tools of Hope Project for CWS -Hunger Awareness Month at PNC
July/August	Continue PNC Hunger CWS School Kits
September	Promote & participate in the Alzheimer's Walk & Work on School Kits
October	UCC Neighbors in Need collection.
FALL ( Oct. 2 – Nov. 28)	- Jammie Grammie PJ collection with First Baptist Church. "Grammie will visit" - Kay
November	Provide for the PNC Thanksgiving Baskets & for the Family ANGEL DONOR Program for PNC
December	UCC The Christmas Fund

MISSION CHILD: Volunteers needed for sponsorship for our World Vision Mission Child.

We will have a sign-up sheet after worship on January 9<sup>th</sup>.

We will have Habitat for Humanity Sunday on January 23<sup>rd</sup> and ask for a special collection. Habitat for Humanity of Eastern Connecticut is a 4-Star Charity Navigator Non-Profit. Charity Navigator has awarded us with their highest 4-star rating FIVE years in a row! That means we are committed to accountability, transparency, and financial wellness.



Also, we will run the PNC Fuel Fund Offering for 6 weeks, starting in February. The PNC will have to do an even better job of gathering funds for fuel for clients this year in view of the rising prices. We will receive loose change and big bucks as well!



## *Thanks a Heap!*

### **Thanks to...**

- Gary Annino for clearing the leaves from the gutters.
- Miguel, Dave McCord, and John Terluk for the snow removal help.
- Amy Foster upon the dedication of her lovely, artistic, and inspirational banners in memory of Ann Wohlleber.
- Ben and Lori Pearson for refurbishing the shed.
- Gretchen, Kevin, and Mike Noonan for all of their help on the shed project and for hosting Ben and Lori Pearson.
- Amy Foster and all her help for Trustees.
- MacKensie Turrisi, Will Stevens and Madison Wagner for all their help with youth and the Halloween party.
- Gretchen Noonan, Janetha Sander, Patty Danley and Pastor Sue for taking part in the Transforming Conflict workshop.
- Julie Evans and Mary Bliven for their work on the Generosity mailing, and Julie Evans for coordinating the Stewardship Program.
- All of our members and friends who have pledged and donated for 2022.
- Everyone who supported The Christmas Fund of the UCC.
- Many who donated food and gift cards to PNC (Pawcatuck Neighborhood Center).
- Those who pray for and support HELO Haiti.
- All of those who have helped with pies for the 2021 year, especially, Sharon Roode, Jan Rubin, Patty Danley, MaryJane Bliven, and Sue Pianka.
- Everyone who sold pies at the Mystic Market.
- Our faithful employees working hard to support all of our ministries.
- The deacons and all of their efforts with special worship for the holiday season.

## *Thanks a Heap! (continued)*

- Kevin Noonan, our new deacon who has been setting up every Sunday for worship in the social hall.
- The families/individuals who led the advent readings and lit the candles on the advent wreath.
- Everyone who helped with the Christmas Bazaar. There were so many to be thankful for – before, during and after the event, especially Brian Hager, who set up and moved everything in place.
- Kay Lautzenheizer, CE members and the women who participate on the ZOOM class every Sunday: Mary Bliven, Karen Doble, Ingrid Stock, Janetha Sander and Jamie Towle. An extra thank you to Jamie who keeps them all together on Sunday mornings.
- All who attend and participate in our fundraisers.
- All who bring refreshments for our after-worship coffee time.
- All of our outgoing and incoming officers and leaders.
- All of the choirs and our Organist and Director of Music, Michael Noonan, for the beautiful music during Advent and Christmas. Your dedication is much appreciated.
- Steve Gadaree for the beautiful hand chime solo at both the 5 pm and 8 pm Christmas Eve services.
- Alice Robbins for the beautiful solos at both the 5 pm and 8 pm Christmas Eve services.
- The Senior Choir and Handbell Choir for the beautiful pre-service music at the 8 pm service on Christmas Eve.
- 11<sup>th</sup> grade flautist, Michelle Macina, for the beautiful flute music at the 8 pm Christmas Eve service.
- Second grader, Violet Weicksel, for her beautiful solo at the December 19<sup>th</sup> worship service.



## **A Thank You Letter to Fundraising Volunteers**

*“Now after this the Lord appointed seventy others, and sent them in pairs ahead of Him to every city and place where He Himself was going to come. And He was saying to them, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few? Therefore beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.*

**Luke 10:1-2**

*Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God’s grace in its various forms.”*

**1 Peter 4:10**

*“The greatest among you will be your servant.”* **Matthew 23:11**

*“So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.”* **Galatians 6:10**

*“Little children, let us not love with word or with tongue, but in deed and truth.”* **1 John 3:18**

### **Much appreciation for the volunteers with our Pie Making Mission:**

The “Pie Ladies & Gentlemen”, as have all other committee volunteers, dedicated extensively of their time and abilities to this very, very successful committee. A thank you should also go out to the families of these volunteers who have who have stepped in at home, so these volunteers could step up in support of their faith.

Janetha Sander has been our leading influence for many years, she has lead us with grace and dignity for those years. For the past year, due to personal issues, she has been our financial support and resource for direction. She also serves on the Christian Educations with equal

enthusiasm. To just say “Thank You”, is such an understatement! We are grateful beyond words.

Sharon Rhoads has stepped up to become our inspiration to continue the “Mission of Pie Making”. She has been dedicated to the success and continuation of this program, also for many years. She has taken the lead and brought this ship home. She spends time organizing and developing schedules of what and how much to make, making sure we have all the supplies necessary to complete these tasks and fulfill goals. She is the “keeper of the ovens” She knows them intimately. Which one is hotter, which one is fickle, how many pies to put in for proper circulation, how to set the temperature and how to manage the temperature, how long to cook each kind of pie. NO ONE can work these ovens the way Sharon can. She is also the only one who cleans the ovens, after almost every use. She spends time we don’t even know about, organizing the freezers, keeping inventory, and planning. Let’s not forget her husband David, who earlier this year underwent open heart surgery. He has been there to assist her, thereby assisting us with not only supplies, but donating helpful items that make our time in the kitchen easier. I don’t know what we would do without Sharon in the kitchen. Again, we are grateful beyond words.

Sue Pianka is our very own “Pioneer Woman”. She really can do it all. She spends endless hours in her gardens, in her kitchen, as well as ours. She grows some of the ingredients we use, Mince Pie filling, raspberries, and much more. She and Sharon can figure out why things do what they do and how to do them better. Her baking prowess is limitless (or so it seems), Lemon pies and other

specialty pies are in high demand every Thanksgiving. Sue and her daughter Jenny Watrous, worked tirelessly to create delicious and beautiful baked goods, as well as a plethora of canned goods, all presented in festive boxes and jars for the baked goods room at the bazaar, as they do every year. People attend our bazaar specifically looking for the items they make. These ladies are prolific decorators of all things edible. Working with her and Jenny is always like being with a celebrity. We also want to thank Charlie, Sue's son for working so hard in the kitchen to clean up after the bazaar to the very end.

Mary Bliven is the busy bee in the kitchen. She is always there making sure everything is sanitized before we begin making anything, not only all the surfaces in the kitchen, but also in Hewitt Hall, the tables, racks, carts, and more. She does most of the laundry, at home! She also, along with Janice, is one of the two individuals who likes to do dishes and is an expert with the sanitizer. She has finally agreed to use the kitchen aide mixer to make the dough (up to this year, she was doing it by hand). Like most of us, she can and does step in wherever she is needed in the process of pie making. When there is a need at any step, she can and will do it. She brings with her, stimulating conversation, stories of grandchildren and topics we have not considered. Mary is also very active in Christian Education and spends equally as much time there, as she does with making pies. For the Fundraising Bazaar, she cleaned (including dusting & sweeping), prepared and sanitized all the rooms that were to be used. She is the first to volunteer and is always up for being part of whatever Fundraising or Christian Education needs to do to benefit this Church. She is a whirlwind of energy and

we also couldn't function without her. We also need to thank Mary's husband Dennis for working in the kitchen after the bazaar to clean up and help us until the very end.

Patty Danley for volunteering and proud to be one of "The Pie Ladies". She is a jack of all trades, traveling supply person, supporting volunteers when Janetha and Sharon are not available, all functions of pie making, and the ovens (under Sharon's expert tutelage). Cook for special events at the church serving 75-100 people & volunteers. Co-chair (with Julie Evans) of the bazaar, planning, preparing for the Tea Luncheon at the bazaar.

Julie and Helen Evans, we couldn't do without their help. Julie is always there to help with many, many functions. With almost every pie, there has to be a box, with a label. Without Julie and Helen and with some additional help from our youth group, Kay, Mary, Mackenzie, Will, Madison, Violet, Gabby and Elaina, we would not have accomplished this very important task. Julie and Helen are always ready. Julie takes care of our publicity and correspondence, as well as hours of folding boxes. Helen also folds boxes for hours, and is our very valuable helper to move heavy bags of sugar, flour and anything we ask of her. Rosemary also, makes sure our labels are available for us.

Melanie Ouellette came to us as a new member, and we are so glad she did. She has jumped in with both feet and the rest of herself. She has been very dedicated and definitely is one of "The Pie Ladies". She is an excellent pie maker and her crimping is beautiful. Interestingly, we can each tell which pie we made mostly by the crimping. Her career has been as a Nutritionist, so she has been

helpful with suggestions and conversations with us in this area. Melanie has been very dedicated to this program and truly a team player working diligently to make sure we meet our goals. She is also Chair of the Missions Committee as well as part of Fundraising. Melanie has brought with her, from her previous Church, many ideas we have incorporated into our Bazaar. One very successful inclusion has been the “greens”. She instructed us on how to construct the “greens baskets”, what the best greens are to use in the baskets, bows, decorations and more. This is something we will be doing every year from now on, in honor of Melanie. Unfortunately, Melanie and her husband, who just underwent knee surgery, will begin their retirement in January and sadly, will be leaving us. We will miss her terribly.

Jamie Towle-Weicksel and daughter Violet, have whole heartily joined our “Pie Ladies”! We are so happy to have both mother and daughter as part our team. Jamie has brought new hope for us in her enthusiasm, charm, suggestions and her commitment to this program. And she really, really, likes our pies. She keeps her freezer stocked, thank you for that. She is willing to and does help in every phase of our process, she can and does jump in anywhere at any time. She and Violet have renewed us. Violet also helps with pies, she can roll and crimp, but she needs a stool. Jamie is there when we need her even though she is a Professor and still carries on with her classes at college. Jamie is also very technology capable and has offered help in this area. Jamie is also very active with Christian Education and the Zoom classes that take

place every week. This is also a very important and much appreciated function for our Church.

Barbara Gildersleeve and Evelyn Bamford has come to our rescue to help at the bazaar as well as in the kitchen.

Pastor Sue for greeting all our guests as they entered. We are very thankful you were the first person they met upon entering. Also for making sure all Covid requirements were met as people entered our church and for taking all of the credit card sales from the bazaar.

Robin Pella for making each dessert tray look wonderful for each table at the bazaar and staying till the end to help clean up.

Pat Turner, Monica Eppinger, Sharon Roode, Elizabeth Witter and Lois Turrell (also made greens), for making all 70+ decorated boxes of cookies for the bazaar.

Marty Booker for all of the beautiful table decorations for the bazaar.

Elaine Bliven-Ricci for leading the care and servers for the bazaar, along with Noell.

Pam Cekala (Patty Danley & Mary Bliven's sister) for helping in the kitchen for the bazaar.

Thanks to all the people who donated cookies for the bazaar. Much appreciated.

Janice Rubin (Sharon Roode's sister), might as well be a member of this church, she has spent as much time with us this year as any one of us. She has recently retired and needed something to do. Sharon invited her and the rest is history. She and Mary are the two most prolific

dough makers we have. Janice also, like the rest of us, can and will perform every function. Janice is also a skilled baker and has helped us with some valuable experience. She also helped us with our bazaar. She made greens, she made cookies, helped in the kitchen preparing food for the bazaar and worked in the baked goods room with Sharon and then came up to work in the kitchen. She has been a tremendous help, we hope she continues.

Rory Contin, has been buying pies from us at the Market for several years. When we sell pies at the market, we often explain how we make these by hand at our church. One day, Rory knocked on our kitchen door with apron in hand and asked if she could help. She was also retired and wanted to know how we made our pies. She has joined us very frequently in our pie making program. She also asked if she could help with our bazaar, we of course said yes, and she was there in the kitchen and in the hall serving lunch.

Sue Tripp is also a not a member of our church but come occasionally to help with pies.

### **The Market:**

The Dennison Pequot Market is our main distribution center for pies. We have gone from 30-45 a week, to 50-60 a week, we have done as much as 75, and most days, we sell out, long before the 3:00 PM close of market. This is an arduous task. It requires packing up from the church about 60 pies. Loading them into your vehicle, then also a folding 6 foot table, tent (both of which have to be set up and taken down), unloading the pies, setting them up and then smiling and dealing with customers who are by now

forming a line to get their pies. As strenuous as this seems, it is a very enjoyable and rewarding event, every Sunday from 12:00 – 3:00, June through October (22 weeks). Listed below are our volunteers, some of us physically can't do this anymore so we are very grateful for these volunteers also. We want to thank them for representing our church to all of the people they meet. Many of these people also volunteer at the Mystic Garlic Festival, which was a multi-day, all day event,

Pastor Sue, there are so many things to be thanking you for. We are happy to have you spend some of your Sunday afternoons at the market as another volunteer to talk with and meet people who attend and purchase our pies. It speaks volumes for our church and community relations.

Special thanks to Melissa and Rob Rockwell for making all of the garlic pies for the Garlic Festival.

Brian Hager helps us with many mechanical and freezer related issues we have. Brian is also the Committee Chair for Trustees and is very diligent about the functionality of the church and all that includes. The Dennison Pequot Market is one (of the many) voluntary functions where we are the grateful for Brian and his wife Denise.

Kris & Joe Serwinski are also another couple who spend the afternoon at the market. Both Kris & Joe are the first to volunteer for wherever they can help. Not only with the market, but also with church functions and especially with our youth. Their daughter Mackenzie is also now volunteering to get our youth group kickstarted.

Ingrid & Zack Stock are true veterans of this program. Ingrid was very instrumental in getting this up and running. Ingrid's son Zack has been helping her for several years now, we do appreciate our youth. Ingrid is also a multi-faceted volunteer. She has been part of the Christian Education committee for many years and even though her children are grown, she still enjoys working with the children and all of the activities that occur at the church and outside of the church.

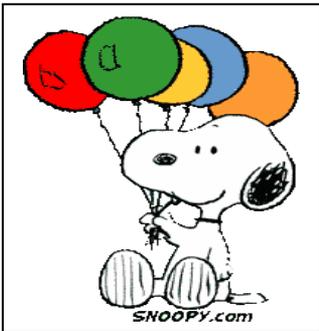
Kay Lautzenheiser and her son Jason (who helped us set up) along with Patty Danley who used to volunteer on a regular basis, took one turn at it this year to realize it was too strenuous for them to continue, we really miss doing this, but know our limitations.

Special thanks and remembrance of Jim Lautzenheiser for all of his years of volunteering at the market. People still speak of him. Much appreciated for all of his volunteer work and much missed.



## January Birthdays...

- 1 Rev. Sue Latourette
- 3 Jimmy Spavins
- 4 David Lewis
- 7 Sherri Boldt
- 8 Quinn Burnside
- 17 Jane (Janda) Rathbun
- 21 Agnes Terrill
- 24 Marlon Pucella-Loutrel
- 27 Kathleen Bond, Alice Watrous
- 29 Nancy Bulkeley
- 31 Megan Huckle, Kris Serwinski



## ...and Anniversaries

- 8 Hilding and Gloria Carlson
- 17 David and Jennifer Land
- 22 Danny and Marty Booker

If we have missed your special day(s) or if there are corrections to be made, please notify the church office at (860) 535-0379.