



The Church Caller

A monthly publication of Ellington Congregational Church

November 2020



SUNDAY VIRTUAL WORSHIP SERVICE

10:00 a.m.

PREACHING:

THE REV. DR. JAY M. TERBUSH,
SENIOR PASTOR

Sunday, NOVEMBER 1ST
TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY AFTER
PENTECOST
COMMUNION & CONSECRATION
SUNDAY
ALL SAINTS DAY

Sunday, NOVEMBER 8TH
TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY AFTER
PENTECOST

Sunday, NOVEMBER 15TH
TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER
PENTECOST
THANKSGIVING BAGS DEDICATED

Sunday, NOVEMBER 22ND
THANKSGIVING SUNDAY
ALL CHURCH FAMILY FRIENDLY
SERVICE



Sunday, NOVEMBER 29TH
FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
HOPE
HANGING OF THE GREENS
ALL CHURCH FAMILY FRIENDLY
SERVICE

From the Moderator...

On October 18th we held our Congregational meeting with a motion ***“To accept the recommendation of the Search Team and accept Dr. Jay Terbush as the next settled senior pastor of Ellington Congregational Church.”***

Below are the results of the meeting as recorded by Betsy Cottle, Clerk.

The Congregational Meeting was held at 11:00 AM on Sunday October 18th following a Meet and Greet the candidate session on Friday and Saturday and a Sunday service conducted by the candidate, Dr. Jay Terbush. The meeting was held virtually via Zoom electronically with the ability to phone in. The attendance was strong with 98 zoom sessions (many involving more than 1 person). Voting members were counted after the call was read. A video/PowerPoint presentation was given by Dave Panagrosso from the Search team detailing their journey towards selecting Dr. Jay as their candidate along with their strong endorsement of the candidate. The moderator Cathy Leonard opened the floor to discussion both from the video and phone attendees, which went on for 55 minutes. The discussion involved statements and questions offered to the search team who responded with answers. Regional Minister Chuck Erikson was also in attendance and answered some questions. Voting was conducted online and also with a phone in option. It was anonymous with the 5-digit voter id supplied. The votes were collated and the zoom/phone session resumed at 1:20 PM announcing the results.

There were 144 votes placed. The vote to call Dr. Jay Terbush as our Settled Senior Pastor failed.

Cathy thanked the search team for all of their hard work in presenting the candidate and indicated that next steps will be communicated out in the future once known.

Betsy Cottle

Continued on page 2

The motion needed to have 85% positive votes in order to pass. I have heard from a lot of you about the disappointment of the failed motion.

Many have also asked “what are our next steps?”

Dr. Jay: A Prudential meeting was held on Tuesday, October 20th where Dr. Jay submitted his resignation to the Prudential Board with an end date of January 3, 2021. The Prudential Board accepted his resignation. Dr. Jay will be with us through the holiday season.

Interim Pastor: Diaconate will be working with Chuck Ericson, Interim Regional Minister for Eastern Connecticut and Rhode Island, to find an Interim Senior Pastor. The Diaconate will interview available candidates fitting our church profile and make a determination of the best candidate.

Future Search: We are going to take a break and regroup. We will talk about another search in 2021.

I would like to once again, thank the search team for all their hard work, dedication and spiritual devotion during this process. As the end vote was a disappointment this does not diminish the work this team put in.

Search Team: Owen Feindel, Matt Mangold,
Susan Mason (Chair), Dave Panagrosso,
Kayla Panagrosso, Jane Scordato, Mike Scott,
Heather Spencer, Judy Vigneau

And a special thanks to Leigh Lezotte for sending out all the communications for the Search Team and the Congregational Meeting.

As I reflect on the meeting and our next steps for the future, I would like to ask we all hold our congregation in prayer. We have some work to do around our behaviors and our desires as a congregation. I also ask we hold Dr. Jay in prayer as he reflects on his next steps for the future and continues to lead us in worship through the holiday season and into the New Year.

Prayers and blessings to all,
Please continue to stay safe and well.
Cathy

From the Senior Pastor...

What do you do when you know you have a limited amount of time with someone you love? With someone who has filled an important role, with someone who has been with you through many changes, adjustments, challenges? With someone, who is leaving or that you are leaving?

We have shared a lot over the past 3 years. Gone together through loss, grown together through sharing the love of Jesus. Prayed together, studied together, and disagreed while staying together. We have struggled and cried; we have laughed together and been silent in the presence of God. We have had fun and we have talked seriously about issues that are important, even life changing.

I will miss this! I will miss you.

So what should we do during the next two months? The last two months as Pastor and member of the congregation?

Let us focus on the special worship of these holy days and pray for them to be deeply meaningful.

Let us seek each other out for a private word, a whispered prayer, a time of well wishing.

Let us work to make this transition time a period of preparation for starting a new era in the life and history of this church.

Let us have fun and laugh. Let us remember and smile. Let us share a memory, a significant milestone, a time when the presence of God was palpable.

Let us say what is on our hearts—the truth, not a veneer of superficiality. Let us apologize and forgive each other.

Let us give thanks to God, expressing gratitude even as we say, “See you later! God go with you!”

Let us make the most of these two months! I hope and pray that our process of ending our pastoral relationship will have integrity, will be honest, and will be full of the grace of God.

Dr. Jay



Re-Opening Team Update:

Then Jesus said, "Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.

Matthew 11:28

When the Re-Opening Team formed several months ago, many of us were expecting things to wrap up more quickly with the coronavirus. It is certainly taking much longer, than most of us had hoped and prayed for. As Christians, we will continue to shine and offer hope during these difficult times. God is with us.

On October 8, 2020, the State of Connecticut moved into Phase III of reopening Connecticut. They have expanded numbers for worship and for commercial building gatherings. Private gatherings are still limited to 25 indoors. As of this writing, Connecticut has experienced an uptick in COVID-19 cases for the past several days, and considering that schools and universities are open, it was to be expected.

We know how much most of us want to see each other in person. So, we are tentatively planning an in-person worship in the sanctuary on Sunday, November 8, 2020. This ultimately will depend upon where things stand in Connecticut in November, but we are hopeful. There are many details to work out, but the same protocols that have been practiced at the outdoor worship services will be required, with some additional protocols added.

Our church building will be remaining closed. However, it will be open in a limited capacity for the worship service. Sunday School will continue to be virtual and we will not be offering a Social Hour. The pews will be marked off for social distancing. We will provide additional details as our plans solidify.

Also, those in high-risk groups and over the age 65 should continue to stay safe and stay home. We will continue offering a virtual service as an alternative.

If there is a need for an exception to enter the church building, the process is to contact both the church secretary by email, sec-eccucc@sbcglobal.net and Chair of Trustees, DJLL0812@aol.com. There is an ongoing schedule kept to minimize any overlap of

entry and to track entry into the building.

We encourage all Boards and Committees to consider creatively how they can continue activities virtually or in some other safe manner. Please contact us at reopening@eccucc.org

Blessings,

Re-Opening Team: Chas Gross, Chair; Mary Iovine; Sharon McLaughlin; Robin Miller; Joann Scott; Dawn Stone

Indoor Worship Resumes Sunday, November 8!

The Re-Opening Team, Trustees, Diaconate and Prudential will do what we can by following guidance from the CDC, State of CT and SNEUCC, recognizing that all risk cannot be eliminated with in-person worship. **However, each person and family must decide for themselves what their own comfort level is with the coronavirus risk.** Anyone who is not comfortable attending in person should stay home. The current recommendation for those 65 and older or with health issues is also to stay safe and stay home. Ellington Congregational Church intends to continue offering an online, worship-service as an alternative for the congregation.

Protocols for participating in worship are:

- 1) The number of available pews for seating is limited. So as not to turn worshippers away at the door, you must complete an online registration form each week. Once the maximum number of pews is reserved, no further registrations will be permitted. See below for how to register for worship.
- 2) Anyone entering the building must not exhibit any signs of illness or have tested positive for 14 days prior to entering. You must verbally confirm that you do not have any symptoms and have not had contact with possible COVID-positive individuals.

- 3) Masks are required and must be worn at all times.
- 4) Names of those attending will be recorded.
- 5) You will have your temperature taken with a contactless thermometer. Those exceeding the maximum temperature will not be allowed to enter.
- 6) Social distancing is required. Pews available for seating will be marked accordingly so that 6 feet of distance separates each family unit.
- 7) Any adult or youth becoming ill during an event must be treated as a medical emergency, and must be removed from other participants and the service.
- 8) We ask that everyone enter the church using the back door nearest the parking lot. At the conclusion of worship, those not needing the elevator should exit the rear of the sanctuary to the Narthex. Ushers will dismiss rows to exit so that we stay separated.
- 9) At this time there will not be in-person Sunday School or Fellowship Hour. Offerings will continue to be mailed in or electronic. There will be no collection plate.
- 10) Attendees will be asked to wipe down the area where they were seated, and any place that was touched by them, when ready to leave. Wipes will be provided for this purpose. We will also have stations for hand sanitizer.
- 11) The pastor will indicate ways of greeting others without touching (refrain please from handshakes, hugs, etc. as difficult as that can be).

- 12) Hymnals and Bibles will not be the pews at this time.

Whew! That's a lot of rules! But we should all be used to these kinds of restrictions by now.

HOW TO REGISTER FOR WORSHIP

In order to comply with the state mandated restrictions on gatherings and to avoid the possibility of having to turn people away at the door, those wishing to attend indoor worship on any given Sunday must register ahead of time. To register, please follow these steps:

- 1) Go to www.eccucc.org
- 2) In the middle of the home page, click the button "Register to attend Sunday services in person". This will open the sign up program called Sign-Up Genius.
- 3) Find the date of the service you would like to sign up for, and check the Sign Up box then click Submit and Sign up.
- 4) Fill in the number of people who will be attending, your name, email and phone number.
- 5) Click Submit and Sign Up at the bottom.

If the slots are full for a given Sunday, the system will not permit additional sign-ups.

If you do not have a computer, you can register by calling the church office at (860) 871-6606. If no one answers, just leave a message stating your name, telephone number, which Sunday you want to attend and the number of people in your party. (You will receive a confirmation phone call if you leave a message on the answering machine.)

For those who prefer not to attend in-person worship at this time, there will still be on-line worship available. Of course, if the COVID situation worsens, we may be forced to suspend in-person worship. If you have any questions, you can contact the Reopening Committee at reopening@eccucc.org.

Diaconate Message

Barring any unforeseen problems, issues or glitches with the COVID-19 pandemic, we will be worshipping in the sanctuary on November 8, 2020. After seven months of being out of our sanctuary (we were last there on March 8, 2020) it will be a joyous occasion!

Will it be the same as it was in March, no. Will it be a wonderful occasion, YES! Will it be different than what we are used to, absolutely!

We will have to follow mandated guidelines for masks and social distancing. The number of people in attendance will be limited and sign-ups will be required in advance of Sunday worship. Pews will be marked off to assure physical distancing will be maintained. Greeting one another will involve waving across the aisle rather than handshakes and hugs. There will not be a "passing of the plate" for offerings but continued encouragement of online and mail-in giving. Communion for the time being will be on hiatus in the sanctuary but offered in some other form. Those details are still being worked out.

All of this sounds very complicated but the bottom line is that we will be back together and be able to see one another face to face if not cheek to cheek. I hesitate to use the well worn phrase, "this too shall pass", but it will eventually and we will be back to normal albeit a new kind normal.

See you in church! For real!

Dawn Stone, Diaconate

Daylight Saving
Time ends on
November 1st.



Veterans Day is November 11th.

**Thank you
to those that have served and are serving!**



**PLEASE REMEMBER:
December Caller
Deadline
NOVEMBER 15, 2020**



Prayer Shawl Ministry

While the church building is closed, I have prayer shawls, lap robes and pocket prayers at my home. Now that the weather is cooler, these might be more appealing.

These items are often given for illness, recuperation or, injury, but they are also given for encouragement, thinking of you or friendship. Perhaps you would like one for yourself.

Please call me, Jan Starkweather at 860-875-1543 and we can make an arrangement. Thank you.

Message from the Trustees

We have begun the final quarter of the church year. The Stewardship Committee campaign is underway and it is encouraged for the congregation to catch up with their pledges if need be, but we also need help from the pastor, boards, and committees to hold the line on spending.

As a reminder, budget requests were noted at the October Prudential meeting. Please have your budget figures submitted directly to the Trustees email no later than November 15th.

Additionally, we want to ask that as we move into the final quarter of the year, all expenditures for 2020 be submitted to the treasurer prior to December 15, 2020. In order to provide an accurate accounting of receipts and expenses for the year, invoices and requests for reimbursements need to be submitted for payment and processing in the year that they are incurred. Once 2020 is closed out, expenses paid in January 2021 will be charged to the 2021 budget, even if they were for the previous year. We are unable to charge expenses back to a previous year. Please keep this in mind and request invoices from vendors before the end of the year, and please submit requests for reimbursements for 2020 prior to December 15, 2020.

Thank you.



TRUSTEES CORNER

First and foremost, we continue working with Re-Opening and Prudential to move forward with our church building re-opening with an abundance of caution.

This was a busy month for your Trustees. Robin and Chas cleaned out the boiler room and it looks fabulous. They not only made it shine, but also corrected the issue of a variety of “stuff” that was in front of the electric panel. Our town Fire Marshal visit required some corrections. We were also cited for not having a sticker on the kitchen hood indicating a yearly inspection and cleaning/correction as needed. Thanks

to Vinny Savino’s referral, a technician did come out and we are in compliance now until next September. Robin followed up with the Fire Marshal so that they have the inspection report on file. The additional cleaning for the stove exhaust system needs to be done annually and the cost will be \$800.00 per year.

Another note about the Fire Marshal report is that we are now required to have our fire doors inspected annually. In addition, we are going to need to replace many of the fire doors that we have. Thanks again to Robin Miller for working on this project.

Yellow jackets/wasps were on the outside corner of the building near the entrance to the labyrinth. Scott met an exterminator who was called down to eradicate those insects. Scott also discovered that the power had been off for some time in the dungeon area downstairs. This included the small freezer, which had melted ice cream, rolls and more. Thank you to Scott for handling that mess.

Those who have needed to go into the parking lot will notice a big improvement – the weeds have been removed and it looks like itself again. We are looking into the cost for repaving, as the parking lot is on borrowed time and there are some areas that need correcting.

Although our building is still closed right now, your Trustees continue working to keep the building in good repair.

Blessings, Duane Van Deventer, Chair

ECC Annual Meeting **01-28-2021**

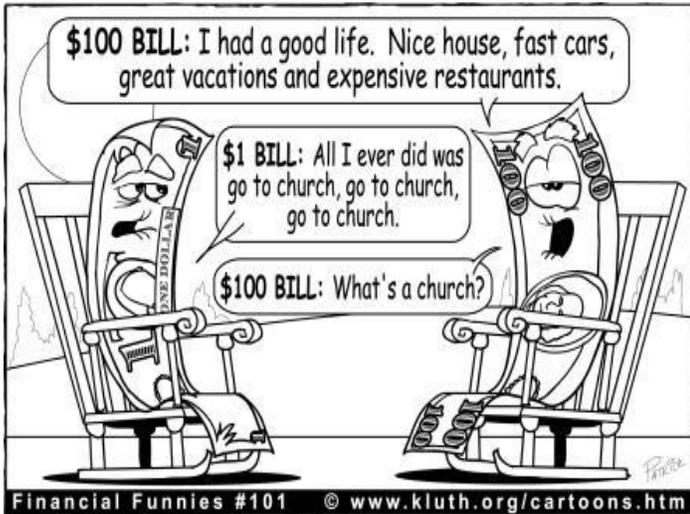
ECC ANNUAL REPORT

It is time for the Boards and Committees to begin writing their reports for the Annual Report. The ***deadline*** for electronically submitted reports and reports that require typing or significant formatting is ***December 31st*** and the ***deadline*** for financial documents is ***January 15th***. There are no exceptions. If you would like a copy of last year’s report please email the church office for a .pdf copy. Thank You!

Stewardship Reminders

Proverbs 3:9-10

Honor the Lord with your wealth and with the first fruits of all your produce; then your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will be bursting with wine.



Stewardship 2021

A sincere thank you to those who have completed and sent in their pledges so far. We appreciate your generosity and willingness to continue Jesus' "Miracle Math" by multiplying our gifts to the church and to the community. If you have not had a chance to pledge yet, please send your completed pledge form to the church office.

You can also make your pledge online at www.eccucc.org.



The **THANKSGIVING** Grocery Bags will be received and dedicated on **Sunday, November 15th**.

**Parking Lot
Drive-Through
11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.**

**THANK YOU FOR
YOUR
GENEROSITY!**



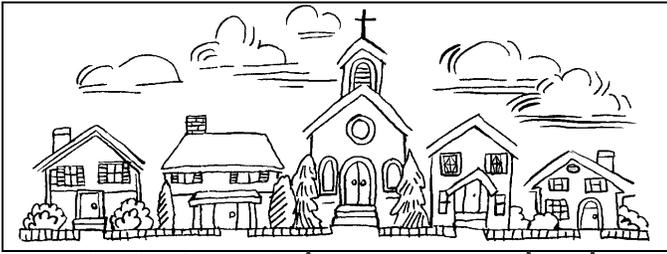
Pledge/Contribution Receipts...2020

PLEASE KEEP IN MIND: 2020 Contributions need to be received by the Church Office by 7:30 a.m. on Dec. 31st for the accounting year deposit. All contributions received after this deadline will be accounted on your 2021 1st quarter statement.



When submitting a check, please always write your giving/envelope number, and the year for which the offering is intended on the check memo/for line.

Thank you for your attention, understanding and for your financial support of the mission and ministries of the Ellington Congregational Church.



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.*

What Missions has recently accomplished and is currently working on towards being accomplished:

Thank you notes were received from the following:

- Crystal Lake
- Ellington Human Services
- Samaritans Purse
- HVCC
- Vernon Human Services
- Hands on Hartford
- Go Fund Me for the Ellington Family
- Lee Hay, Manager, Cornerstone Food Cupboard

Contributed/donated/in 'the works':

- \$250.00 put aside to assist in completing Birthday Bags.
- \$350.00 to Ellington Human Services towards Christmas gift cards for children.
- \$150.00 towards socks and mittens for Maple Street School, Vernon.
- \$300.00 adult underwear purchased for the homeless shelter-clothing bank.
- Vernon Human Services holiday request.

- Speaking with Bogner's for the purchase of hams for the Cornerstone Kitchen Christmas dinner.
- New Hope Shelter.
- BoMissions annual Advent Project.

Sue's Cupboard Quip:

Thanksgiving thoughts

As friends and family gather around our Thanksgiving tables, we give thanks to the Creator for his blessings. We share food, fellowship, laughter, memories, and plans for the future. We remembered those who once shared this day with us, and we miss them.

No matter where we are — in our homes, community centers, military bases, nursing homes or hospitals — we are grateful to be together. There's turkey, mashed potatoes, gravy, winter squash, green bean casserole, other family favorites, and pumpkin and apple pies for dessert. We remember those in need by contributing to food drives and food pantries so we all will share in this day.

We think of the winter ahead and the snow and cold that will come. We are thankful for the shelter of our homes and the warm clothing we will wear. We are mindful of those who do not have these basic necessities.

At the end of the day we are tired but happy. We might say a silent prayer that, God willing, we will all be together next year to celebrate Thanksgiving.

Bernadette Gentry
Granby, CT
November 28, 2019

Journal Inquirer Editor's Note: This letter originally ran on Thanksgiving Day 2018.





**FOOD BANK -
REQUEST FOR THE
MONTH OF
NOVEMBER**

Instant Mashed Potatoes
Stuffing
Canned Yams
Canned Green Beans
Canned Corn
Canned Onions
Canned Jellied Cranberry Sauce
Quick Bread Mixes

*We greatly appreciate all
donations, including grocery
store gift cards!*

Mobile Grocery Cart: please email
Tammie Mangold with your address at
Tammie.Mangold@gmail.com if you are able to do
this, you can leave a bag outside your door. The
items will be picked up and delivered to
Cornerstone.

**Because of the coronavirus, we ask for regular
size food items and please, no glass jars.**

THANK YOU!



Birthday Celebrations!

THANK YOU – BoMissions received Dr. Jay's
and 8 other Birthday Bags – we look forward to
many more bags. If you are able to provide the bag,
cake mix and frosting, BoMissions will help fill the
remainder of the bag. We appreciate what you can
do for making a child's birthday very special.

Please email Tammie Mangold with your address at
Tammie.Mangold@gmail.com if you are able to do
this, you can leave the bag outside your door and
Tammie will pick up these birthday bags and take
them to Cornerstone.





Service People on Active Duty

The following list contains people called to active duty. Please keep them and their families in your prayers. If you know of someone who should be on this list (or have a correction), please contact the church office at sec-eccucc@sbcglobal.net Thank you.

<u>Full Name</u>	<u>Submitted by</u>
143 rd Regional Support Group CT Army Nat'l Guard	
250 th Engineering Battalion Army National Guard	
Allysson Belval	
Bill McDonald	
Chelsea Hinton	Jay Walpole
Chris Perrett	Moriah Nutt
Chris Saucier	
Curtis Hany	Patti & Mark Hany
Damon Matus	
Del Plato	
Drew Blunt	
Dylan La Mothe	Joan McCarthy
Eric	
Ethan Parlante	Carolyn Ladd
Evan Peterson	
Frankie Valentin	Lucie Parisi
Gary Feldman, Jr.	
Greg Fearnley	
Ian Rivers	
Jay O'Connor	Dianne Durgan

Jessica Lannan	
Jim	
Jon Sanchez	Dawn Stone
Josh Long	Karen McCarthy
Josh Smidge	
Justyn Manning	Dawn Stone
Kyle Ciesco	Melissa Ciesco-Rolland
Larry Oliver	
Lewis Hursh	
Matt Boulem	Banks Family
Nicole Walsh	
Sean Belmont	George & Marty Nickerson
Thomas Allen	Lucie Parisi
Tim Moynihan	Victoria Liegl
Zach Hazzard	Jon Allen

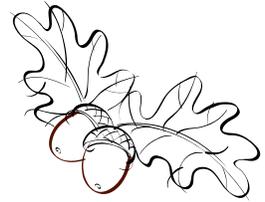


Women's Fellowship News

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.

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

From The Message, 1 Peter 4:10



Dear ladies of ECC,

November is upon us and the church is still buttoned up. This is a challenging time and our executive board continues to meet and try to come up with some programs for the church. We are currently thinking of sponsoring a virtual holiday potluck. We could have some carols, Christmas recipes and/or crafts, etc. We will keep you posted on any thoughts and plans we have.

I have decided that one thing I can do is share some of my favorite recipes. The following one is delicious. I got it from a friend 54 years ago, right after I had my second baby, Kim. I had been really careful about weight gain for 9 months and hadn't been eating desserts. Maybe that is why this tasted like heaven. It has never disappointed.

Enjoy! Keep a smile on your face and be kind. We will gather again. Just not sure when. Have a happy Thanksgiving!

Blessings,

Susan Mason

*W. F. Executive Meeting
Friday, November 6th
1:30 pm ~ virtual*

Cranberry Torte

2 eggs
1 ½ cup sugar
½ cup butter
¼ cup Crisco
1 cup flour
2 cups whole cranberries

Preheat your oven.

Melt together butter and Crisco.

Beat eggs, add sugar and melted stuff.

Add flour and cranberries.

Pour into a buttered 8" square cake pan.

Bake 60 minutes at 350°F.

Serve with whipped cream.



The Church Family News



BIRTHDAYS THIS MONTH

Nov. 2	Karen Conley
Nov. 2	Arabella Winslow
Nov. 3	Madison Gilliland
Nov. 5	Carol Hagopian
Nov. 6	Skylar Berry
Nov. 7	Robert Blair
Nov. 9	Carol Feindel
Nov. 9	Jeffrey York
Nov. 9	Katie Adams
Nov. 10	Sarah Litty
Nov. 10	Keegan Terry
Nov. 14	Cynthia Morton
Nov. 16	William Senk, Jr.
Nov. 19	TJ Fuhlbrige
Nov. 20	Jackie Plourde
Nov. 20	Janet Van Deventer
Nov. 21	Marsha Andzans
Nov. 23	Dennis Carroll
Nov. 26	Jamy Magdefrau
Nov. 26	Ingrid Royle
Nov. 26	Miranda McAvoy
Nov. 27	Grady Oliver



CHURCH MAIL

October 6, 2020

Hi Ellington Congregational Church,

Love you all and miss you.

Joan Kutscher



Nov. 15	Carol & Jack Hagopian
Nov. 19	Karen & Bill Conley
Nov. 26	Karen & Peter Walch



PRAYER GROUP & PRAYER CIRCLE

The Prayer Group **prays at home for one hour every Tuesday at 10:00 a.m.** for people in need. If you need prayers for someone or would like to be included in the Prayer Circle, please let Dottie Marshall or the church office know.

NEWS FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE

The Church Office will close at 11:00 am on Wednesday, November 25th for the Thanksgiving Holiday long weekend. Wishing you and yours a very blessed

Happy Thanksgiving

At all times the church answering machine provides instructions for urgent call service and is on 24 hours a day.

Hospitalized
since the last Caller



Thankfully, no one to list.

*Pastoral Emergencies, please call or text
Dr. Jay at 860-906-6525*

If you forget, Urgent Call Service is available at all times by calling the church and listening to the answering machine as it provides instructions. (Please do not leave a message on the answering machine.)

*To announce a special happening,
i.e., birth, engagement, wedding,
graduation, or if you see that we do not
have you acknowledged in the Birthday
and/or Anniversary announcements, please
email the church office.
Thank you!*



*We give God thanks for
the life of*

Mark Conklin

Paul Meyer

Melissa Schlag

*Our sympathy is
expressed to all the
families and friends of*

Mark, Paul and Melissa.

*Blessed are those who mourn,
for they will be comforted.*

Matthew 5:4



Faith Formation News

(Church School, P.A.C.E., S.E.E.D., Confirmation, T.E.L.O.S.)

Church school news!

Students have been given supply boxes to keep at home. Each contains items they may need to participate in church school craft making and Bible.

Preschool-2nd grade: This group has met virtually and once on the Green before an in-person service. Children and teachers shared what makes each of them unique and wonderful! They've heard the Sunflower Parable and the Pumpkin Patch Parable, planted seeds, shared roasted sunflower seeds with their families, shared a pumpkin prayer and seen a jack o'lantern carved...we all shine with the light of Jesus!

3rd-5th grade: This group has met virtually and once on the Green before an in-person service. Children and teachers have talked about all things being possible with God, why to pray and the many ways to engage in prayer. Discussions about faith and having courage and finding peace have been had!

S.E.E.D. youth group:

Students Encounter and Experience Discipleship

This group of 6th-8th graders have been meeting twice a month on Sunday afternoons on the Green. Youth are getting to know each other and brainstorming what topics they'd like to explore and what service projects to perform to spread joy, kindness, and God's love!

Photo by [Noah Buscher](#) on [Unsplash](#)



T.E.L.O.S. youth group:

Teens Experience Living Out the Story

The high school TELOSians have been meeting weekly on the Green. Youth have been getting to know each other, playing games and brainstorming activities and discussion topics for the year. The COVID-19 pandemic has brought many changes to how the youth group operates. All participants wear masks and keep a safe distance between them. Supply bags have been assembled and labelled for each member to use as needed.

The pandemic has brought about a change in this program year's fundraising efforts, as well. All of the traditionally held fundraising events for the fall have been canceled. A new fundraiser is beginning this month: the Scrip gift card program! Buy gift cards at face value to use for all of your shopping needs or to give as gifts. T.E.L.O.S. will receive money for every gift card purchased through this program! See the full page flyer included in this edition of the Caller!



TURN SHOPPING INTO EARNING



Support our organization while you shop

More than 50,000 organizations have used gift cards to turn everyday shopping into earnings—our organization is one of them. Pay with gift cards and offset costs for our organization.



Buy gift cards at face value



Earn a rebate up to 20%



Use gift cards for everyday shopping

Shop 750+ top brands

Use eGift cards and physical gift cards, and earn on gas, groceries, eating out, clothes—the list goes on. It's easy, it's rewarding, and it fits right into your busy schedule.

See a full list of brands and get started at ShopWithScrip.com on desktop or MyScripWallet.com on your phone.



amazon



STARBUCKS®



"It's super convenient. All I need to go shopping is my phone—I don't even need credit cards or my purse. I'm going to pay for these things anyway, I love being able to use gift cards so we get something in return."

Jen H., earns for hockey

Thank you for supporting T.E.L.O.S. while you shop! Here's how to get started.

1. Go to ShopWithScrip.com
2. Use the enrollment code: C78D75DA67998
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4. Our Coordinators are Linda Redekas (860) 416-3565 and Lee Carman (800) 833-1905. You can call with questions, or email us at telos@eccucc.org.

As always, we appreciate your support! God bless you!



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NEWS FROM GROWTH & NURTURE



We hope that everyone has been enjoying the fall weather and changing leaves. On October 3rd our group hosted a hike at the Batz Property in Ellington. The kids enjoyed a scavenger hunt throughout the hike. We hope to host another event in the future with more notice so that more people will be able to join us!

Miranda, Zoe, Sasha, and Tristan enjoying the hike.

While we know that the holiday season will look different this year, we have some upcoming activities that will keep us all connected in the months ahead.

November:

- **Gratitude Challenge**—During the month of November, we are challenging everyone to write down at least one thing you're grateful for each day. We are creating a new private Facebook page that is just for members and friends of ECC. We will post daily about the Gratitude Challenge. We invite you to share what you're thankful for on this page. If you're not on Facebook, you can still join the challenge! Just write down what you're grateful for in a journal or on a calendar. ***Please note: The Facebook page will be used for more than just the Gratitude Challenge, and will help us stay connected while we are apart. Be sure to check your email for information and a link to join!***
- **Scavenger Hunt**—This year we are unable to host Fall Family Fun Night, so we thought that we could take one piece of it (the scavenger hunt!) and make it safe for individuals and families to complete on their own time. More information to follow in an email. If you do not receive church emails, please call and leave a message at 860-871-6606 explaining that you would like a paper copy in the mail with information about the scavenger hunt. There will be prizes involved! (Please, if you do have an email, share it with the church office.)

December

- **Gingerbread Competition**—see full page flyer on the next page for more information!

As always, if you have ideas or questions, please contact us at growth@eccucc.org 😊.

Allie McKeegan, Chair; Colette Aldrich; Beth Cocuzzo; Jeff McAvoy; Janet Wieliczka



Gingerbread Competition

Calling gingerbread makers of all ages! Growth & Nurture invites you to participate in a church-wide decorating contest! Prizes will be awarded!

Who: Any church member/friend who would like to participate.

What: Build a gingerbread house/building of your choice and decorate it however you want.

Where: At home with pictures of entries being posted for all to see. We will send out more information about this as it gets closer to December.

When: Entries due by Saturday, December 12th

How: You will gather your own materials to build at home (see below for suggestions). All materials used in making your gingerbread house should be edible with the exception of the base you are building on.

To Enter: Email 1-4 pictures of your creation to growth@eccucc.org by Saturday, December 12, 2020.

Suggested Materials:

Gingerbread or graham crackers
Frosting
Board to build on
Candies

Cereal
Marshmallows
Any other edible items to enhance your design!

From the Assistant Historian...Fourth Church History (1943 – 1965)

The Rev. Glenn Eno was called to be our 24th pastor in 1943 to 1945. His salary was \$1600. During his pastorate...

- Christian Youth Fellowship was renamed the Gil Loa Society.
- The traditional scalloped oyster dinner served at the Annual meetings was suspended due to the high cost. Meat pie was substituted. (In 1961 the Bd. Of Deacons voted to discontinue the oyster dinner in favor of roast beef.)
- An auction was held to raise funds for painting of the church. Also small jars were placed in members home for daily gifts in connection with family meals.
- For a period of time, the church clock struck 12 times no matter what the hour, particularly disturbing the townspeople and their schedules.
- It was voted to purchase a service flag with a star representing each member who was serving during WWII. Seventeen stars were added and a special hymn was dedicated on consecutive Sundays for each star.

Our 25th pastor, Rev. J. C. Miller accepted the call in 1945, retiring in 1951. He was highly regarded and rewarded with the title of Pastor Emeritus. He was a founder of the Rockville Rotary Club. Upon his death the Club donated the exterior floodlights illuminating the spire in his memory. During his pastorate...

- For a couple of years Church was closed the month of August.
- In 1946, due to a coal shortage, services were held downstairs after Christmas.
- The church was painted at a cost of \$2,500. Church heating transitioned from coal to oil in 1950.
- The Gil Loa Society was renamed Pilgrim Youth Fellowship.
- The Women's Council was ongoing, sewing quilts, clothing etc. for needs here and abroad. One project was making clothing for sharecroppers.
- The Ladies Benevolent Society continued the potluck suppers, raising funds for church projects. The cost was 50 cents for those who contributed to the supper, 25 cents for pre-school children and \$1.00 for all others.

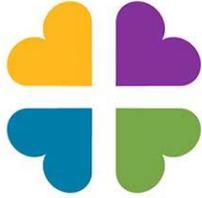
Rev. Kenneth Johnson served as our 26th pastor from 1952-1956. During this time...

- The Benevolence Committee was renamed the Mission Council.
- Sta Wed Club was formed to provide "wholesome recreation" for married couples and to engage in fundraising.
- The Candlelight Club was open to any person beyond high school age. Their principle contribution was to compile the newsletter, "**InSPIREation**", forerunner of our **Church Caller**. They also sold plates imprinted with the church and helped to maintain a Church Cabin in Storrs, CT.
- The Book of Remembrance was established.
- Plans for the Education Wing were discussed.
- The Friendship Club continued to provide flower arrangements for services as they had for the past 40 some years. When in season member's garden flowers were favored.
- After a lightning strike, rods were installed on the steeple. The strike occurred shortly after Rev. Johnson's sermon praying for rain.

Rev. Wayne Sandau accepted the call to be our 27th pastor from 1957-1965. Some notable events during these years...

- The Education Wing was dedicated in 1957.
- The 225th anniversary of our Church was celebrated in 1958. Anniversary chairperson, Mildred McKnight noted, "The backward look afforded by this splendid celebration has helped us to have a sharp forward look. In these times of religious uncertainty and moral stumbling, a Congregation whose members are faithful to each other and to God, exercises a stable influence for good in the Community".
- Our Church joined the United Church of Christ in 1961.
- The carillon was installed in 1964 in memory of Christine B. Cordsten.
- A Memorial Chapel was created in the Education Wing (now Room 201) for children services and later used for the adult early service.





Southern New England Conference

United Church of Christ

Living the Love & Justice of Jesus

October 2, 2020

Ellington Congregational Church
PO Box 216
Ellington, CT 06029-0216

Dear Friends at Ellington Congregational Church,

Keep alive in me the forward look, the high hope, the onward surge. Let me not be frozen either by the past or the present. Grant me, [O God, your] sense of the future without which all life would sicken and die.

– Howard Thurman

It seems altogether fitting that as we all live into a time of global pandemic, that we should think about prayer, with hope for the future. It is a gift of our faith that we are full of hope even in the bleakest of times and it is with that sense of hopeful future that we engage in prayer.

It has been the practice of the Connecticut Conference staff to pray for churches, their congregations and their leadership, one by one, throughout the year. As we move from being three conferences into one very large conference, we should keep those things that make sense and prayer for one another is one of those practices that we need to continue into the future. Therefore, we will be selecting 12 churches each week from our Southern New England Conference to pray for.

And so, the staff of the SNE Conference this week will be praying for the ministry of your congregation and of your leadership. As followers of Jesus, you all make a difference among yourselves, in your community and in God's wider world.

In addition to the staff praying for the congregation we will be listing the church in the prayer list published as our weekly "Starting With Scripture," available at SNEUCC.org. What prayers can we pray for your church? It has been our experience that there are moments when you have very important needs that we would like to lift up in prayer. Of course you can contact any of your three Bridge Conference Ministers at any time with prayer requests. It obviously doesn't need to be just in this week! You should know that any specific prayers will be held in confidence and circulated only among the staff and not listed in any public forum.

We would also welcome your prayers for our new Conference and the Associations in your public prayers in worship. We cannot do this ministry alone. As the new Southern New England Conference of the UCC we need to undergird this important transition in prayer. Your prayers for our mutual ministries sustain us and deepen the covenantal connections between us.

The Rev. Marilyn Kendrix
Bridge Conference Minister
SNE Conference, UCC

The Rev. Don Remick
Bridge Conference Minister
SNE Conference, UCC

THE CHURCH CALLER
Ellington Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
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New home? Phone? E-mail? Please e-mail the Church Office.

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The Rev. Dr. Jay M. Terbush, Senior Pastor
Esther Pezzella, Director of Music
Lee Carman, Director of Faith Formation
Jill McAllister, Outreach & Media Coordinator
Leigh Lezotte, Church Secretary

Mission Statement Ellington Congregational Church United Church of Christ

To be a dynamic and nurturing community
called by God’s grace
to know Christ and make Him known
through worship, love, and service.

Adopted September 15, 2019

VIRTUAL CHURCH OFFICE HOURS
8:00 A.M. – 2:00 P.M. Mon. – Fri.
Closed Holidays

SUNDAY VIRTUAL WORSHIP 10:00 A.M.

HOW TO CONTACT THE CHURCH
860-871-6606
Sec-eccucc@sbcglobal.net
Web Page: www.eccucc.org