



CHRIST COMMUNITY NEWS

CHRIST COMMUNITY CHURCH IN COLLINSVILLE
Conservative Congregational Christian Conference

VOLUME 8 #7
July 2026



WELCOME TO THE CHRIST COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER!

Here you will find news of events inside and outside of the church, articles, opinions, testimonies and other interesting tidbits to inspire and amuse.

If you would like to contribute a short article, testimony, encouraging word or quote, or an interesting or funny church sign, please speak to or send to Rose Beaudry. Submissions due at least 3 days before the end of the month for next newsletter. Contact info on back page of newsletter.

From the Pastor . . .

At our last Church Roundtable meeting the "Ministry Re-Alignment Plan 2.0" was introduced. The intent of this plan is to provide better focus for the ongoing ministry of the church. Currently it is still simply a proposed plan that is open to discussion and any modifications as we move forward.

Some years ago the church had adopted what is still our vision statement and that is to "Exalt the Lord Jesus, Proclaim the Gospel, and Make Disciples." Three vision teams were formed—each led by an Elder—who were to carry out the vision on an ongoing basis. As time passed, the focus of each time narrowed leaving some ministries not addressed at all. And so the goal of re-alignment plan is to delineate the various ministries of the church and organize them categorically under the pillars of the vision statement of the church.

The key for everyone in the church is to pray over it

so that we can discern God's will for this plan. And while you're praying, since none of these ministries runs by themselves—they each need at least one person who is willing to serve the church by leading them—ask the Lord if He is calling you to any of the ministries that are listed in the plan. (See last page of newsletter).

We'll continue talking about it over the summer with the idea of putting it to a church vote at the September Roundtable meeting.

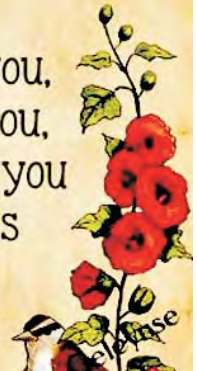
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**'DO NOT FEAR,**

for I am with you;  
do not anxiously  
look about you,  
for I am your God.

I will strengthen you,  
surely I will help you,  
surely I will uphold you  
with My righteous  
right hand.'

Isaiah 41:10



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PATRIOTIC CONCERT ON JULY 4



The Farmington Valley Band will perform an outdoor patriotic concert to celebrate the 250th anniversary of the USA on Saturday, July 4, at 5:00 PM. They will be in front of the church. Bring your own folding chairs (or blankets for sitting on the grass) and pray for really good weather!!!



PASTOR'S ROUNDTABLE RECAP - 6/28

(Some items covered separately in this newsletter.)

- ♦ **MINISTRY REALIGNMENT PLAN** - The proposed plan was presented at the June Roundtable. This took up most of the meeting. We will have the summer to discuss it before implementing. We will vote on the final version at the September Roundtable. See last page of newsletter for the handout that was distributed.
- ♦ **EXALT TEAM:** - Will not meet in July.
- ♦ **PROCLAIM TEAM** - Will meet on July 5 after the service.
- ♦ **MAKE DISCIPLES TEAM** - Has been meeting with Proclaim Team.
- ♦ **DEACONS TEAM** - Nan Schleich thanked the deacons as angels of mercy in their ministry to the Schleichs during Chuck's recent rough patch after his fall.
- ♦ **MISSIONS TEAM** - Next Zoom meeting is July 16.

SERMON INFO FOR JULY

SERMON SERIES: "Greatest Sermons Ever Preached"

July 5: "It's Greek to Me", Acts 17:22-32

July 12: "Remain Faithful", Acts 20:13-35

July 19: "The Mission to the World", Acts 22:1-21

July 26: Kevin Salch will be preaching (Patty & Pastor Chris will be out of town for a wedding). Topic TBD

WHY THE ANGELS CRY 'HOLY, HOLY, HOLY' - NOT 'LOVE, LOVE, LOVE'

(And Why Modern Christianity Chokes on This)



Let's get something straight at the outset...

If you walked into Heaven expecting to hear a soft, sentimental lullaby about God's unconditional affection for all people regardless of their rebellion, you're going to be very confused.

The angels around the throne - the ones who see God as He truly is, the ones who have never sinned, never rebelled, never been discipled by TikTok theology - do not sing:

- "Love, love, love!"
- "Affirmation, affirmation, affirmation!"
- "Follow your heart, follow your heart, follow your heart!"

Nope.

They cry out day and night, without ceasing:

"HOLY, HOLY, HOLY is Yahweh Elohim Tz'vaot - the whole earth is full of His glory!" (Is. 6:3; Rev. 4:8)

Holiness is Heaven's headline.

Holiness is Heaven's anthem.

Holiness is Heaven's obsession.

Why?

Because love, while central to God's character, is not the foundation of His throne.

Holiness is.

Psalm 89:14 lays it out: "Righteousness and justice are the foundation of Your throne."

Love flows from His nature, but holiness defines His nature.

Love describes what God does.

Holiness describes what God is.

And this is exactly where modern Christianity faceplants - God's love has boundaries, but his holiness doesn't.

If I had a shekel for every time someone said "God loves everybody," I'd have enough to rebuild the Temple! But Scripture says something very different. God does not love the proud (Prov. 16:5), the violent (Ps. 11:5), the wicked (Ps. 5:5), those who hate Him (Ex. 20:5), those who practice lawlessness (Matt. 7:23)

"God loves everyone" is the Hallmark card theology of a culture that cannot imagine God having standards.

But holiness says otherwise.

Holiness refuses to wink at rebellion.

Holiness refuses to blur lines.

Holiness refuses to pretend sin is cute.

Holiness requires God to oppose what is unclean, unjust, idolatrous, rebellious, or evil.

That's why the angels sing "Holy, holy, holy."

They're not singing what makes us comfortable, they're singing what makes God, God. Love without holiness is a golden calf. If angels sang "Love, love, love," we would create a god in our image by noon.

Actually, we already did... his name is "Culturally Approved Jesus".

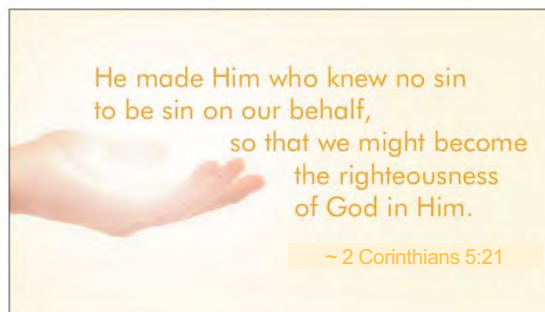
He's the one who hugs you but never rebukes you, saves you but never sanctifies you, affirms you but never transforms you, loves you but doesn't demand obedience, and died for sin but somehow doesn't care if you keep sinning.

That's not the Lamb of God.

That's the calf of self-worship...

~ Yael's Letter on Facebook

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## COFFEE HOUR UPDATE!



As you have seen we switched over to the Keurig machines for coffee. However, there are still quite a few days open for people to sign up to bring snacks. **HUGE THANK YOU** to Robin Cmiel who has been baking cakes just about every week! The sign up sheet is on the table in Collins Hall where the water bottles are. ~Patty Bauer

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OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Never too soon!

It's never too early to start thinking about our Operation Christmas Child Event. With back to school sales and summer sales, it's the perfect time to stock for our boxes! I have a friend that makes them all year round at their church - what a blessing! So start thinking about what you would like to put in the boxes, make for the children - and before you know it, that time will be here! ~Patty Bauer



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2 Corinthians 4:17-18

For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all.

So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

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CANTON FOOD BANK NEEDS

On the 3rd week of each month we ask that you bring in donations for the Canton Food Bank - to help those in need. Patty has been checking in with them periodically to see what they need, and the flyer in the bulletin has been updated. going to ask for specific items to help stock up on those items. Thank you for your generosity each month!



For July, we are asking for:

- ♦ Canned Tuna ♦ Canned Meat ♦ Pasta
- ♦ Marinara Sauce ♦ Canned Chili
- ♦ 100% Juice ♦ Coffee



WEEKLY HOUR OF PRAYER

There is a Prayer Hour at 7:00 PM on Tuesday evenings at CCC. We will meet in the Prayer Room until we outgrow it and move into the Sanctuary. The focus will be prayer for our congregation, its leaders, its ministries, and its mission. Please join us on Tuesday evenings. You may pray silently with us if you don't choose to pray out loud.



meantime, if you need healing prayer, it's always available at the end of Sunday services. You may also call the church office to schedule a time of individual prayer ministry from the prayer team.

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## MONTHLY PRAYER MEETING

Saturday, July 18

at 10:00 AM in Collins Hall

CCC has a Monthly Prayer Meeting on the third Saturday of each month. We will also prayer walk the church pews after the meeting. All are welcome!

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SERMON DISCUSSION GROUP



The sermon discussion group meets on Wednesdays at 7:00 PM in Room 4. If you cannot make it to the church, we can set up a Zoom Meeting for you to call in and join us! Just contact the church office to let us know by noon on

Wednesday. All are very welcome!

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## MEN'S BIBLE FELLOWSHIP



This group meets on Saturdays at 9:00 AM in Room 4. All guys are welcome. Bring a friend! Heck, bring two!

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MEN'S DINNER FELLOWSHIP

At Good Friends Restaurant on Main Street (Rt. 44) New Hartford, CT 06057. (Near the mini mall; formerly 's.) We usually meet the last Thursday of each month at 6:00 PM. All are welcome!



Men's Fellowship

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LITTLE FREE PANTRY



It's wonderful that we donate to the Canton Food Bank on the 3rd Sunday of every month, but please remember our Little Free Pantry too. It's on the front porch.

If you would like to buy something to keep on hand, please let Laura or Patty know, and we can put it out as needed. Thank you for your generosity to our neighbors in need!

PRAY WITH ME

Heavenly Father,

I acknowledge that You are wise in all Your ways and faithful in all Your promises. Your Word says that if anyone lacks wisdom, he should ask of God, who gives generously to all without finding fault. So today I ask for Your guidance.

Lead me in the decisions that lie before me. Close the doors that are not Your will and open the doors that align with Your purpose. Guard me from acting out of fear, pride, impatience, or selfish ambition. Help me to trust You even when I cannot see the entire path ahead.



Lord, teach me to delight in You so that my desires are shaped by Your heart. Let Your Word be a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. Give me discernment to recognize truth, courage to obey what You reveal, and peace to wait when the answer is not yet clear.

When I am uncertain, remind me that You direct the steps of those who trust You. When I am tempted to lean on my own understanding, help me acknowledge You in all my ways so that You may make my paths straight.

Fill me with the Holy Spirit and guide my thoughts, my words, and my actions. May every decision I make bring honor to Jesus Christ and draw me closer to the person You created me to be.

I surrender my plans, my future, and my desires into Your hands. Your will is better than my own, Your timing is perfect, and Your grace is sufficient.

In the name of Jesus Christ I pray,

Amen.

~Chad Prather on Facebook

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## DEACONS & GREETERS

(Thank you for your faithful service!)

### COMMUNION SCHEDULE

July 5: Victoria DuBois

July 12: Dorene Grace

July 19: Caryn Turek

July 26: Buddy & Debbie Laws



### GREETERS SCHEDULE

July 5: Dorene Grace

July 12: Buddy & Debbie Laws

July 19: Rev. Chuck & Nan Schleich

July 26: Dorene Grace

## GREETERS NEEDED!

Debbie Laws is looking for Greeters to join the team. This is a crucial ministry. Greeters are the very first faces that newcomers and current attendees alike will see upon entering our church. Please speak to Debbie if you are interested.

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IN MEMORIAM: Leo "Pat" Grace

February 18, 1953 - May 24, 2026

Leo Patrick "Pat" Grace, 73, of Avon, beloved husband of Dorene (Macklin) Grace, passed away with his loving family by his side on Sunday, May 24, 2026.

Pat was born in Hartford, CT, in February of 1953, son to the late Lee C. and Ethel (Ferris) Grace. He graduated from Windsor High School in 1971, where he met the love of his life, Dorene, his high school sweetheart. Soon after, he enlisted in the U.S. Army and was honorably discharged in 1974. Pat and Dorene married and built a life together that spanned more than 50 years; a beautiful example of devotion, partnership, and faith. He loved to dance with his bride any chance he got, often sweeping her into a quick swing around the kitchen, a restaurant, or a parking lot, anywhere the moment struck him.



Pat Grace, CCC member and deacon

Pat owned and operated Tunxis Service Center in Unionville, where he provided trusted auto repair services to the community for over 40 years before his retirement. Amazingly generous, he spent his life, giving freely of his time, his skill, and his heart. He and Dorene shared a lifelong love of working on their historic home, renovating it room by room and turning it into a loving and welcoming home.

A selfless, community-minded man of God, Pat gave himself fully to others. He served as an Avon Boy Scout leader, a Little League coach, a youth group leader, a church leader, and a prison ministry volunteer, among many other roles of leadership and stewardship. He was the kind of person who made you feel like the most important person in the world when he was talking to you, with a playful twinkle in his eye that let you know you were in on the joke. To his family he was always the biggest cheerleader, a devoted husband and father, and a doting grandfather and great-grandfather, lovingly known as "Banta." He leaves a legacy of generosity, kindness, laughter, and love.

He is survived by his loving wife, Dorene Grace of Avon; his sons, Adam P. and his wife Paula Grace of Casco, ME, and Benjamin W. and his wife Sherry Grace of Wayland, MA; his daughter, Abbey L. and her husband Victor Garcia of Longmont, CO; his brothers, William and his wife Jeanette Grace of East Windsor, CT, and James and his wife Ilona Grace of Glastonbury, CT; his sisters, Carolyn Grace of Providence, RI, and Maureen Grace and her husband David of Providence, RI; as well as 7 beloved grandchildren and 1 great-grandchild. He was predeceased by his parents, Lee and Ethel Grace.

A Celebration of Life service to honor Pat will be held on Saturday, July 18, 2026, at 11:00 AM at the Carmon Funeral Home & Family Center, 301 Country Club Rd, Avon, CT 06001.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a memorial donation to the Alzheimer's Association. For directions, online memorial, and condolences, please visit www.carmonfuneralhome.com.



IN MEMORIAM: Rev. Jim Wheeler

Our dear friend and former pastor, Rev. Jim Wheeler, went to be with his Heavenly Father on Father's Day, June 21, after a brief illness.

James S. Wheeler, 75, of Canton, beloved husband of Judith Ann (Miller) Wheeler, passed into the arms of Jesus, Sunday, June 21, 2026. Born in Amityville, NY, son of the late John and Dorothy (Schneider) Wheeler, he was raised on Long Island, NY. Jim enlisted in the US Air Force and spent three years in the Philippines and Thailand during the Vietnam War. After his honorable discharge, he met his future wife, Judy, whom he married in August of 1974. He went on to earn his Bachelor of Arts from Sacred Heart University and his Master of Theology from Dallas Theological Seminary. He was ordained into the UCC in 1985 and then into the CCCC in 1995, serving on the latter's Board of Trustees for three years. He was called to Collinsville Congregational Church in 1983 as Associate Pastor, becoming Senior Pastor in 1993, and finally retiring in 2019.



Jim coached soccer for his son and daughter in Canton and was active in the Focus on Canton organization. He volunteered as a Chaplain for the Canton/Collinsville Fire Department. He served as a Chaplain in the Connecticut Army National Guard from 1989 until 1993, attaining to the rank of Captain. He also served as a Professional Assistant for the Carmon Funeral Homes for over ten years and as a Hospice Chaplain for the McLean Hospice in Simsbury.

Jim was a lover of the outdoors whose hobbies included solitary hikes as well as leading hikes for youth groups and others. He also stayed active through strength training and walking at the reservoir, especially with his beloved wife, Judy. In fact, he loved doing anything and everything with Judy. Spending quality time with his immediate and extended family was so important to Jim, who cherished them dearly. He spent much of his free time visiting with, caring for, and ministering to all kinds of people in all his various walks of life. Jim's heart was wholly devoted to seeking to deepen his relationship with Christ. He spent much of his time worshiping, and reading, studying, and meditating on the Bible. Above all else, Jim's greatest passion and desire were to love and serve His Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Besides his beloved wife Judy, he leaves his children, daughter Jeanette C. Egdahl and her husband Richard of West Hartford, son James D. Wheeler and his fiancée Katherine Roller of Fairfield, and daughter Joanna C. Daigle and her husband Michael of Bloomfield; his grandchildren Abigail, Samantha, and Emma Daigle; his sister Elizabeth Corday of NY, NY; and his nieces Amy Wheeler and Cassie Turchi of Long Island. Besides his parents, he was predeceased by his brother John W. Wheeler, Jr.

His family will receive friends Friday, July 10, 2026, from 4:00-7:00 PM at the Carmon Funeral Home & Family Center, 301 Country Club Road, Avon. A Celebration of Life in memorial of Jim will be held Saturday, July 11, 2026, 11 AM at Christ Community Church in Collinsville, 7 South Street, Canton, CT. In honor of Jim's life, guests are asked to wear their favorite colors rather than the traditional all black. Military Honors will conclude the service and a reception will follow. Burial will be at the convenience of

the family.

Contributions may be made to either Christ Community Church in Collinsville or Tunnels to Towers Foundation, www.T2T.org. For directions or to leave condolences for Jim's family, please visit www.carmonfuneralhome.com.



When we hear praise, we often think of:

- Singing upbeat Christian music
- Thanking God
- Sitting in church politely applauding

But the Hebrew word *hallel* is much more expressive!

Hallel is more than words—in fact, it's often used to describe something very physical.

It means to boast, rave, or glorify God.

- It implies a physical and emotional response - leaping, spinning, dancing, or shouting in ecstatic joy.
- Praise is meant to be whole-body worship, not just a polite voice in a chair.

Psalm 150 gives the full picture:

"Praise Him with trumpet sound; praise Him with lute and harp. Praise Him with tambourine and dance; praise Him with strings and pipe. Praise Him with clanging cymbals; praise Him with loud clashing cymbals." (Psalm 150:3-5)

Praise engages heart, voice, and body. It stirs the soul. It's not just polite acknowledgment, It's a declaration that God is worthy, powerful, and glorious! It can shift atmospheres, release joy, and even war against darkness (2 Chronicles 20:22).

When we truly praise, it's not calm. It's spinning, exalting, raving, rejoicing in the Lord—the full expression of worship.

~ Traci Coston on Facebook



EVENTS

(NOTE: Please see weekly bulletins and church emails for cancellations or updates to date, time, and/or location.)

HOOR OF PRAYER WEEKLY MEETING

Tuesdays, 7:00 PM at CCC. See pg. 3.

SERMON DISCUSSION GROUP

Wednesdays, 7:00 PM in Room 4. See pg. 3.

MEN'S BIBLE FELLOWSHIP

Saturdays, 9:00 AM in Room 4. See pg. 3.

NO EXALT TEAM MEETING IN JULY

PATRIOTIC CONCERT



Saturday, July 4, at 5:00 PM on the CCC porch.
See pg. 1.

PROCLAIM TEAM MEETING MAKE DISCIPLES TEAM MEETING

Sunday, July 5, after the Service, in Room 4.

DEACONS MEETING

Sunday, July 12, after the Service, in Pastor's office.

MONTHLY PRAYER MEETING

Saturday, July 18
10:00 AM in Collins Hall. See pg. 3.

PASTOR'S ROUNDTABLE



Sunday, July 26, after the service, in Collins Hall.

MEN'S DINNER FELLOWSHIP



Thursday, July 30, at 6:00 PM.
See pg. 3.



Celebrating the day God blessed the world with YOU!

JULY BIRTHDAYS

Gay Markkanen, July 3
Debbie Laws, July 3
Madeline Orcutt, July 8
Saarin Appleton, July 8
Michael Kucharski, July 9
Carolyn Roberge, July 9
Stephanie Griffin, July 16
Marge Van Dusen, July 18
Orion Orcutt, July 25
Sally Griffin, July 25



(No August Birthdays)

Birthday blessings to everyone!
Please let me know if your birthday is not on this list or is incorrect and I'll fix it. You don't need to be a CCC member to be celebrated! ~ Rose

This newsletter is for the express purpose of informing and edifying the church body. We reserve the right to edit submissions.



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2026 Ministry Re-Alignment Plan 2.0

SHEPHERDS OF THE CHURCH:

Elders: (includes Pastor): Prayer, Spiritual direction, pastoral care, theology of Church, disciplinary actions

Deacons: Show the love and compassion of Jesus thru mercy ministry (food, financial, prayer)

Prayer: Prayer needs of church (healing, emergencies, etc.)

EXALT: To exalt the Lord Jesus Christ

Worship: (includes Technology Team): All worship service elements (music, liturgy, special ministry, sound, graphics, online)

Greeters: Coordination of greeters for all services

Communion: Preparation, set up, and clean up

PROCLAIM: To proclaim the Gospel

Outreach: Brining the gospel to the community (community events in And outside of the church)

Missions: Supporting the work of briing the Gospel to the World

MAKE DISCIPLES: (2 TEAMS)

Team 1:

Small Group Ministry: Deepening church life, fostering community

Men's Ministry: Equipping and cultivating Godly men (fellowship and study)

Women's Ministry: Equipping and cultivating Godly women (fellowship and study)

Team 2:

Young Adults Ministry: Equipping the next generation for the church (fellowship, encouragement, leading)

Children's Ministry (includes Children's church and VBS): Teaching and training children in the ways of the faith

OPERATIONS OF THE CHURCH:

Church Manager: coordinate office, finance, facilities, security, and hospitality

Church Admin: Bulletin, correspondence, readings, signage, phones

Finance (two people): Steward finances of church income and expense

Facilities (two people): All things building and grounds

Security and Safety: Implement security and safety measures

Hospitality: Coordination of memorial services, after church fellowship, Rally Day, church-wide meals (Advent, Palm Sunday), etc.