



CHRIST COMMUNITY NEWS

CHRIST COMMUNITY CHURCH IN COLLINSVILLE
Conservative Congregational Christian Conference

VOLUME 8 #2
February 2026

You Are Loved with an Everlasting Love...



"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." ~ Gospel of John 3:16

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 . . .

A dear brother in the Lord who I've known since high school, who led me to the Lord, who prays for me continually, shared a verse with me to encourage me in my walk. Before I go on, you might be thinking, "wait a minute Pastor, you need to be encouraged in your walk? How can that be? You're a pastor! You've got it all figured out!" As much as I wish that to be true, it's not. I'm a simple human being like everyone else and my faith journey has it's ups and downs also. So, yes, I need encouragement like everyone else.



Anyway, this wonderful man of God had shared one verse from one Psalm with me. He texted this to me, "Delight yourself in the Lord; and He will give you the desires of your heart." Ps 37:4. What a wonderful promise

from Scripture! Delight yourself in the Lord, or find joy in the Lord, or find contentment in the Lord. David asked God in his great confession prayer of Psalm 51 "Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit." Ps. 51:12. David's plea was that the joy of knowing the salvation of God would be restored and that his spirit—his heart—would be willing. Willing to live for the Lord in all ways. Paul had a parallel thought here when he told the Philippian church "to live is Christ; to die is gain." Php 1:21.

And so my dear brother encouraged me, and I encourage you all as well, to live for Christ in all ways, seeking to know Him, seeking to magnify Him, seeking to honor Him in all that we say and do. And why do we do that? So that God will give you the desires of your heart. He will bless your soul. He will fill your heart to overflowing. What a simple yet encouraging thought for us all.



CHURCH CANCELLATIONS

Below are the several ways we try to get the word out when there is a cancellation of any kind at the church. We try to get the word to you as many ways as possible. PLEASE watch for reports from CCC:

Email: If you aren't receiving emails from the church in general, look in your SPAM - if not there then let Patty know.

Text Messaging: There's an opt-in process for this. Again, if you aren't receiving texts and would like to - see Patty

Voice Messaging: I believe that's set up for just about everyone. Whatever your primary phone is, the message will be sent there.

Website: It will be right up front on the home page.

Social Media: It will be on Facebook and Instagram.

TV Stations: Laura puts it up on all the major TV stations - WFSB (CBS), WTNH (ABC), WVIT(NBC), and FOX 61. ~ Patty Bauer

NEW MEMBERS CLASS



Due to snow cancellations, this class has been scheduled to February 15, after the service. Learn about CCC and how we do things, and ask any questions you may have. Attending the class does not obligate you to become a member (but we'd love it if you do!)

Please let Pastor Chris know if you plan to attend.

ANNUAL MEETING

- ♦ **FINANCIAL** - Pastor Chris said we don't have an official 2026 "Budget" because we are open to the Holy Spirit to make changes during the year.
 - He referred us to the 2025 Annual Report for all financial information, and noted that there was some "red ink" on pages 14-15.
 - A vote was taken and we unanimously voted to accept the Annual Budget information.
- ♦ **ANNUAL MEETING**
 - There were no other questions or comments after Pastor Chris spoke, so the meeting was adjourned. Maybe a record for the shortest Annual Meeting ever! Pastor Chris said it helps that we have monthly Pastor's Roundtable to deal with many things during the year.
- ♦ **EXALT TEAM SURVEY**
 - Elder Robb Storm mentioned that the team had finalized their survey and encouraged everyone to fill one out to help the Exalt Team with planning worship for Sunday services and other services. An email went out this week to everyone with an email address, with a link to fill out the survey online if desired.
- ♦ **UPCOMING EVENTS**
 - 2/15, after the service - New Members Class. (See pg. 1).

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### HOW MUCH DOES GOD LOVE YOU?

You might ask, how much does God love me? Maybe you think He loves other people more than He could love you.

Listen to what Jesus says when he is talking about you to His Father in John 17:23:

*The world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.*

Take a close look at the words of Jesus. Do you see what He is saying? God the Father loves you as much as He loves Jesus! You may need to pause on that thought to take in the reality of it. Many of us would agree that



God loves us, but sadly, we don't understand how much He loves us. He doesn't love others more. He doesn't even love Jesus more! Jesus isn't His favorite! We are not

second-rate children in the family! We are deeply loved by God and He loves us as much as He loves Jesus.

Jesus is not only our Savior and Lord but our older brother. Listen to what Jesus says about you being His brother or sister in Hebrews 2:11:

*Both the one who makes people holy and those who are made holy are of the same family. So Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters.*

This is the gift that Jesus gives us when we trust Him. We are adopted into His family and become Jesus' sibling and receive all the benefits available to Him—including unconditional and unmeasurable love from the Father. Has fear got a grip on you? Well, here's the antidote. Receive God's perfect love for you. Embrace this truth and let fear go. Lean into His love, just like Jesus did, because that will remove fear.

~ Lorie Hartshorn, CBN devotional 11/5/25

## THE KINDNESS OF THE LORD

January 15, 2026

3-FOLD CORD

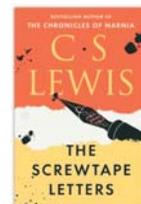
Last year I inherited my best friend's copies of *Mere Christianity* and *The Screwtape Letters* by C. S. Lewis. I picked up *Screwtape* for the first time in years and read it obsessively on repeat for at least a month. Then I opened



*Mere Christianity*. In approximately 38 years of following the Lord, I had never gotten around to reading it. Lewis raises and answers so many questions, so clearly! You don't need to agree with all his conclusions to see that he had an amazing ability to come up with plausibly com-pelling Biblical

answers to questions most humans ask. In 2010, the Lord told me that all my sins stem from pride and lack of faith: news to me, but since then it has been confirmed. Now through these classics, the Lord is putting His finger squarely on these two roots once more. It's breathtaking. Today, halfway through *Mere Christianity* for the second time, I saw things about pride I missed the first time—or perhaps I'm simply seeing how they really apply to me now.

As early as first grade I wrestled with pride. I was determined to fight it with self-humiliation and self-hatred: fleshly responses to fleshly problems, which made me miserable for the next 30 years and didn't solve anything. Now I know that self-humiliation, a specialty of certain members of my family, is not humility; it's walking in the same direction as pride, only backwards, and arriving at the same destination. Recognizing and breaking the generational self-humiliation habit has been one of the most difficult long-term endeavors of my life. There's progress; God is good and has promised to complete the good work He began in me. But I still have a long way to go. I know because this morning I read Lewis' self-assessment tool for pride ("[I]f you want to find out how proud you are the easiest way is to ask yourself, 'How much do I dislike it when other people snub me, or refuse to take any notice of me, or shove their oar in, or patronise me, or show off?'" Chap. 8, *The Great Sin*), and the Lord very kindly showed me how much this happens in my heart day to day—not to humiliate me, as I did to myself routinely in the past, but to lead me to repentance for the way I've allowed pride to infiltrate my relationships. I clearly have a lot of journaling to do. Similarly, I didn't pick up on the concept of "my time is not my own" the first time I read *Screwtape* about 20 years ago. This time I gasped as I read it. I certainly haven't lived as though my time belongs 100% to God, and it will take time to make that a habit. Calling my time my own has been added to my list of journal entries about pride!



I'm sorry to have to tell you this, but Lewis was clear that pride is universal. I invite you to sit across the table from the Lord as I have done and allow His kindness to work in your areas of difficulty today. Repentance is the only way through to the sweet humility of Jesus. I'm going to be glad later that I did it. I hope you will, too.

~ Laura Salch

### COFFEE HOUR CHANGES

I want to start with a big THANK YOU to Nan & Rev. Dr. Chuck Schleich for taking care of the coffee hour last year. They are 'retiring' from running the whole thing! SO - for the time being we will be going back to the sign-up sheet. I will try to have the coffee ready for Sunday, but if you sign up you will be responsible for:

- ◆ Setting up the table before service
- ◆ Bringing snacks (Nan will still be bringing donuts as long as we would like them)
- ◆ Cleaning up on the 1st & 3rd week of the month.
- ◆ You don't have to do it alone - team up with someone to make things easier.

There is a sign-up sheet in Collins Hall.

Stay tuned for more updates to Coffee Hour throughout the year! ~ Patty Bauer



### YOUNG ADULTS MINISTRY



Andrew and Victoria Papacoda are leading this group, which will meet one Sunday a month at 3:00 PM at CCC. The next meeting will be on February 15. All young adults are welcome!

### MEN'S DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRY

This group meets on Saturdays at 9:00 AM in Collins Hall. They are discussing the book "Twelve Ordinary Men" by John MacArthur. Bring your own food and drink if you choose. We will pray and talk about one chapter per week. All guys are welcome. Bring a friend! Heck, bring two!



### CANTON FOOD BANK NEEDS

For those that don't know - 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 forward, we are going to try something different, and ask for specific items to help stock up on those items. Thank you for your generosity each month!



**For February, 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.



### MONTHLY PRAYER MEETING

Saturday, February 21 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!

### 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!



### MEN'S DINNER FELLOWSHIP

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



### 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.

Canned goods, as well as various edible or potable liquids, can freeze in cold weather. This can be a food safety hazard, making people ill under certain conditions. PLEASE limit food donations in the LFP to items that will remain safe to consume after freezing, such as dry foods. OR 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!



**LIVESTREAM COMMENTS VIA PATTY**

Here are some quotes we have received (spelling/punctuation as they appeared):

1/4

**DURING THE SERMON**

- ◆ Amen - even water is submissive
- ◆ Great sermon on so many levels
- ◆ Amen - after the 3 encouragement
- ◆ So simple - these reminders are so needed
- ◆ Yes

1/11

- ◆ Greetings from the recovery team in Riverton
- ◆ God has always been faithful to be the Great Physician
- ◆ Thank God for new mercies every day

**DURING THE SERMON**

- ◆ Not recovery, but RESTORATION - Amen!



**DEACONS & GREETERS**

*(Thank you for your faithful service!)*

**COMMUNION SCHEDULE**

- Sunday February 1: Buddy & Debbie Laws
- Sunday February 8: Victoria DuBois
- Sunday February 15: Dorene Grace
- Sunday February 22: Caryn Turek



**GREETERS SCHEDULE**

- Sunday February 1: Rev. Chuck & Nan Schleich
- Sunday February 8: Dorene Grace
- Sunday February 15: Buddy & Debbie Laws
- Sunday February 22: Rev. Chuck & Nan Schleich

***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.*

**WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY**

The weekly women's study of the Gospel of Luke meets on Fridays at 1:00 PM at the church. Our study guide is:

*"LUKE: A Physician's Examination of Jesus' Life", by Marilyn Kunz & Catherine Schell, QPlace Printing, 2016.*

We have several study guides in the church library. Please pick one up if you are interested.

*~ In God's peace and joy, Linda Papertian  
lrkpaper@gmail.com or 860-796-5643 (cell)*



**CHRIST COMMUNITY CHURCH GREETERS 2025**

As many of you have probably noticed this last year, we have had 4 sets of church members who are greeting people as they enter the church on Sunday mornings. These were the members of our newly established Greeters Team!

A big thank you to each one. Your warm welcomes have been much appreciated!

- Pastor Chuck and Nan Schleich
- Dorene Grace
- Buddy and Debbie Laws

This year we will once again see Dorene Grace, Buddy & Debbie Laws and Pastor Chuck & Nan Schleich, greeting on Sunday mornings.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Deborah J. Laws, Team Coordinator  
December 15, 2025

**DEACON BOARD YEAR END REPORT 2025**

There were several changes made to the Deacons Policies and Procedures Manual with regards to the way we distribute financial aid as well as how we meet needs for physical help. This includes help with things like house cleaning, snow shoveling and other repair needs that families or individuals may have.

For Communion, we will continue to place the bread in small paper cups. We are continuing to serve "gluten free" bread to those who prefer it. We are also continuing to offer the juice in individual cups.

During the 2025 year, Debbie Laws continued to work on updating the Deacon's Policies and Procedures Manual. There has never been a comprehensive policies and procedures manual in the history of the Collinsville Congregational/Christ Community Church. This Manual has made different aspects of the Deacon's responsibilities much clearer and easier.

The Deacon Board completed work creating and approving a Deacons Brochure that may be used to help the congregation more fully understand who the Deacon Board members are, what they do, how they do their work and how to get in contact with them. The brochure has also been designed to introduce the Christ Community Church Deacon Board to the wider "Valley" community and to explain how the community can access the Deacon Board as well as how they might assist and support the Deacon Board.

At our January meeting, the Deacons will finalize the work on the "Sectors List". Each Deacon will be assigned a group of church members that they will be responsible for staying in contact with. This will help the Deacons more quickly become aware of any needs that church members may have and will give church members an opportunity to go to "their" Deacon with potential needs more easily.

We are also grateful for the service of Board members; Victoria DuBois, Caryn Turek and Wallace W. Laws, Jr. Our Deacon Board treasurer. Thank you, all!

Respectfully Submitted,  
Deborah J. Laws  
Deacon Board President  
December 28, 2025

**CARE AND SHARE MINISTRY  
Year End Report for 2025**

In late spring of 2023, the Deacons began a new outreach ministry to our congregation. It is the Care and Share Ministry. This ministry is designed to help families in crisis with their food needs.

A group of dedicated team members is ready to prepare a hot nutritious meal for people in our church who are going through tough times whether it is financial, emotional or physical. Our team is ready to provide a hot meal for families or singles who need some help getting through tough times.

If you have not already filled out a form letting our team know what you and your family's food preferences are, any food allergies and what time we can drop off a dinner.

We provide dinners on Monday, Wednesday and Fridays. Typically, you will receive enough food to have leftovers for Tuesdays and Thursdays. We do not provide meals on the weekends.

If you have not already signed up and would like to sign up for meals during stressful times, please contact team leader Debbie Laws and she will either provide you with the form or will walk you through filling out the form.

Thank you to our great team members!

- Patty Bauer                      Victoria DuBois
- Doreen Grace                  Linda Kulick
- Laura Salch                      Caryn Turek
- Debbie Laws, Team Coordinator

Respectfully Submitted,  
Debbie Laws, Team Leader 2025



**MORE THAN WEEDS!  
A CLASS ON HERBALISIM  
Year End Report 2025**

On Saturday September 30, 2023, from 10:00 A.M. until 12:00 P.M., a series of classes on medicinal plants and how to use them in everyday life began.

Students learned how to create and use an herbal Pain Salve and Quik Stop an herbal version of "quick clot" a blood stopping powder used by the U.S. military to treat wounds.

Since then, some of the classes taught have included classes in October, November and December when students learned how to make a Protective Butter Bar, Magnesium Oil, Vapor-Salve for nose and chest congestion and a delicious fruit electuary. Students became familiar with the medicinal uses, history and folklore of individual plants along with the how and why to use these plants.

If you see plants as "More Than Weeds", please sign up for each class individually so that we will know ahead of time how much of the ingredients will be needed. That way each person can bring home a sample.

There is also a small informational book that will be given to students. The book will list the history, folklore, ingredients, precautions, and recipes that go along with each product that students will make.

This class is being offered free to all who sign up. However, a free will donation will be gratefully accepted to cover the cost of materials. Please be sure to use the sign-up sheets that are available in Collins Hall.

Hoping to see you at the next class, the last Saturday of January.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Deborah Laws, Herbalism Instructor  
January 2, 2026

**PRAY WITH ME**

Father of glory, You are the one from whom all life flows and to whom all praise belongs. We confess that our lives exist for this reason alone, to glorify You and to enjoy You, not someday, not in eternity only, but right now, in this breath, in this moment.



Turn our hearts from lesser loves. Strip away the lie that joy is found anywhere apart from You. Teach us that obedience is not a burden but a doorway, that holiness is not restraint but freedom, that surrender is not loss but gain. Open our eyes to see that every good gift points back to You, and that every moment is an invitation to delight in Your presence.

Let our work glorify You. Let our rest glorify You. Let our suffering glorify You. In success, guard us from pride. In weakness, anchor us in grace, May our thoughts, our words, and our unseen faithfulness become incense before Your throne.

Teach us to enjoy You in the ordinary, in quiet prayer, in Scripture read slowly, in laughter shared, in tears surrendered. Train our souls to taste and see that You are good, not as a concept, but as daily reality.

We ask for hearts that want what you want, loves that mirror Your love, and joy that is rooted in truth rather than circumstance. Fix our eyes on Christ, the fullest revelation of Your glory and the deepest well of our joy. By Your Spirit, form in us a steady, defiant gladness that declares You are enough.

We offer ourselves to You today not waiting for a better season, a clearer path, or a future promise. This is the day You have made. We choose to glorify You and enjoy You now.

In the name of Jesus, our treasure and our joy. Amen.  
~ Chad Prather on Facebook, 1-19-2026

**OCC SHOEBOXES UPDATE**



Woo-hoo! Patty Bauer tracked three of our CCC Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes all the way to South Africa!

**CANDLES**



There are free candles in Collins Hall! Please take some so that you don't get left in the dark. There is a green Advent calendar that is free also.

**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.

**WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY**

Fridays, 1:00 PM in Room 4. See pg. 4.

**MEN'S DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRY**

Saturdays 9:00 AM in Collins Hall. See pg. 3.

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**EXALT TEAM MEETING**

Sunday, February 8, after the service, in Room 4.

**DEACONS MEETING**

Sunday, February 8, after the service, in Pastor's office..

**NEW MEMBERS MEETING**

Sunday, February 15, after the service, in Conf. Rm.

**PROCLAIM TEAM MEETING**

**MAKE DISCIPLES TEAM MEETING**

Sunday, February 15, after the service, in Room 4.

**YOUNG ADULTS MINISTRY**

Sunday, February 15, at 3:00 PM at CCC. See pg. 3.

**MONTHLY PRAYER MEETING**

Saturday, February 21  
10:00 AM in Collins Hall. See pg. 3.

**PASTOR'S ROUNDTABLE**



Sunday, February 22, after the service, in Collins Hall.

**MEN'S DINNER FELLOWSHIP**



Thursday, February 26, at 6:00 PM. See pg. 3.



**DAY OF BLESSING PRAYER RECAP**

On Saturday, January 24 we had the Day of



Blessing Prayer. The turnout was light, but it was still an amazing time of prayer for those that came.

We had 2-3 pairs of people praying for those that came. We even did some remote praying for those that were too sick to come out. We prayed for the coming year and other requests. We will be checking back to see if and/or how the prayers were answered later. It was an amazing time for all.  
~ Patty Bauer

*Celebrating the day God blessed the world with YOU!*

**FEBRUARY**

- Pat Mahnensmith, February 4
- Ken Roberge, February 10
- Pat Grace, February 18
- Isaac Clark, February 23
- Victoria Arel, February 25
- Linda Papertsian, February 29



**MARCH BIRTHDAYS**

- Genevra Bunnell, March 5
- Everett Hanley, March 6
- Marilyn Drs, March 11
- Ashley Faucher-Farrell March 12
- Luke Dickinson March 23
- Jovan Clark, March 27

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

~ ~ ~ ~ ~  
**AND WALK IN THE WAY OF LOVE, JUST AS CHRIST LOVED US AND GAVE HIMSELF UP FOR US AS A FRAGRANT offering AND sacrifice TO GOD. ~Ephesians 5:2~**



*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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