



### 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 . . .

The beginning of any year always seems to stir up thoughts of hope. We make resolutions in hopes of improving our lives. Diets are always the first on everyone's list...and the first resolution to end in failure. But hope springs at every new year because it's a new beginning that serves as a sort of reset in our lives. The beginning of a year just seems to erase whatever happened the year before and gives us all a fresh start...a new beginning.

Let's take a look at a few verses that have to do with beginnings. Gen 1:1 says, "In the beginning, God..." If you can believe those words, you can believe all of Scripture. All of creation came about "in the beginning" by the word of God. He spoke it all into existence. Then



we read John 1:1 which says, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." John, of course, is speaking of Jesus Christ who was there in the beginning. The seminarians say that Jesus was "the agent of creation." John furthers this thought in the first

verse of his first epistle, "That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched—this we proclaim concerning the Word of life." Jesus was from the beginning and the apostles saw and heard and touched Him. And then we have the words of Jesus Himself in Revelation 21 and 22 saying, "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end." I take that to mean that Jesus is the consummation of all things and nothing exists without

Him. Using the words "I AM" declare that these things are indeed His essence.

Why do we consider this? Because as we go through the beginning of another year and set out our plans for improvement, we should focus on Jesus who is the great I AM in all ways. May we all set our sites in 2026 upon our Lord, the perfecter and author of our faith, our Rock, our Redeemer, our Savior. Praying that you all have a blessed 2026.



## ANNUAL MEETING



For those that contribute to the Annual Report - please get your reports to Laura by **January 7!** Please submit digital documents if possible.

Look for hard copies on the platform on January 11, and electronic copies in your inbox before that. The Annual Meeting will be on Sunday, January 25, in place of the Pastor's Roundtable.

All CCC members should definitely plan to attend. Non-members are very welcome to attend also! (Only members may vote on any issues that need a decision.)

### DAY OF BLESSING PRAYER



This will take place on Saturday, January 24 from 1:00-4:00 PM. Meet in Collins Hall, then go to assigned prayer location. There's a sign-up sheet on the back table in Collins Hall. Sign up for 20 minutes of confidential prayer for your 2026 needs and those of your family by a prayer team of 2. All are welcome to participate!

### NEW MEMBERS CLASS



Sunday, January 18, 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!)

## PASTOR'S ROUNDTABLE RECAP - 11/23

### Short and Sweet!

(Some items covered separately in this newsletter.)

- The front portico is now leveled. It was fixed in one morning.
- ♦ **MASTERS SCHOOL CONCERT** - Was well attended.
- ♦ **UPCOMING EVENTS**
- 1/18, after the service - New Members Class. (See pg. 1).
- 1/24 Day of Blessing Prayer. Sign up in Collins Hall. (See pg. 1).
- 1/25, after the service - ANNUAL MEETING. Please get your Annual Report submissions to Laura by January 7. (See pg. 1).

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*Christmas Caroling:  
Canton Tree Lighting  
and out and about  
12/5*

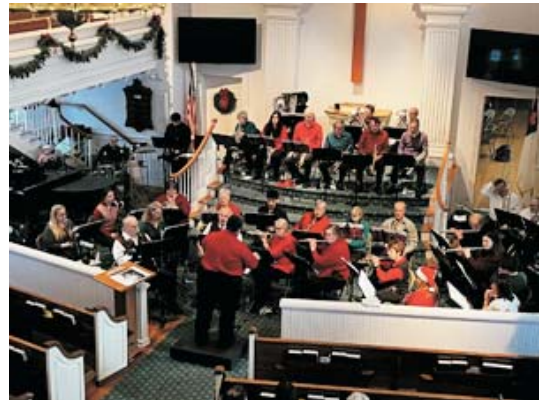


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*Farmington Valley Band Christmas Concert  
12/6*

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*Master's School Concert at CCC  
12/9*

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*Christmas Eve Cqandlelight Service  
12/24*

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## BRING HOLIDAY DECORATIONS BOXES FROM SCHOOL



Sunday, January 4, after the service. Please help!

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## CHRISTMAS UN-DECORATION MOBILIZATION



Saturday, January 10, 10:00 AM. Please help!



## COFFEE VOLUNTEERS

As Nan continues to go through the directory asking all of us to help with coffee hour treats, first we want to thank Nan & Chuck for getting to church early to set up everything! More importantly for their help in making sure we have 'healthy-ish' snacks as well as the donuts!



Additional goodies will ALWAYS be welcome! We continue to need help with cleanup on the days the gamers aren't there - thank you to those that do every week!

## 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 January 18. 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 January, we are asking for BREAKFAST ITEMS:

- ♦ Oatmeal ♦ Cereal ♦ Powdered Milk
- ♦ Pancake Mix & Syrup ♦ Peanut Butter & Jelly
- ♦ Coffee or Tea



## 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, January 17  
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):

11/30

(After reading of Revelation):

- ♦ Amen..so good to hear this verse.
- ♦ Praise God for this sermon!

12/7

- ♦ Good morning. What a joy to come up to Gods sanctuary with you. Thanks for making this possible.



### DEACONS & GREETERS

*(Thank you for your faithful service!)*

#### COMMUNION SCHEDULE

Sunday January 4: Buddy & Debbie Laws

Sunday January 11: Victoria DuBois

Sunday January 18: Dorene Grace

Sunday January 25: Caryn Turek



#### GREETERS SCHEDULE

Sunday January 4: Buddy & Debbie Laws

Sunday January 11: Rev. Chuck and Nan Schleich

Sunday January 18: Dorene Grace

Sunday January 25: Buddy & Debbie Laws

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### WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

The weekly women's study of the Gospel of Luke will RESUME on Friday, January 9 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.

The study guide summary says this about the Gospel of Luke:

"What are the facts of Jesus's life, death, and resurrection?"

In compiling his account of Jesus's life, Luke, a physician by trade, approaches the task as an investigative journalist would. Talking directly with eyewitnesses and establishing the precise historical context. Luke writes with a clear purpose: "so that you may know the certainty of the things you have been taught."

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



### THE DAY THE LIGHT TURNS AROUND

December 21 shows up every year quietly, without lights or songs or anyone baking cookies for it. It doesn't get an Advent calendar. No one puts it on a mug. But it might be one of my favorite days of the year anyway.

Because December 21 is the day the light turns around. It's the shortest day. The longest night. The point where the darkness has stretched itself as far as it possibly can and physically cannot take one more minute. And from here on out, the days get longer. Not dramatically. Not all at once. But measurably. Even if you can't feel it yet. Which feels...on brand for God.



This is the day that feels like a Christmas present slipped under the tree early. No wrapping paper. No tag. Just the quiet knowledge that the light is coming back whether it feels like it or not.

And the wild part is that December 21 doesn't look hopeful. It doesn't feel warm. Nothing about it screams breakthrough. It's still dark when you wake up. Still dark before dinner. If you judged the situation by appearances alone, you'd say nothing has changed.

But something has.

The math has shifted. The trajectory has turned. The longest night has already passed by the time you realize it. Darkness has lost ground even though it still feels heavy.

Which is exactly how God works most of the time. He doesn't usually flip a switch and flood your life with sunlight. He nudges the direction. He changes the arc. He does work underground, in silence, while everything still looks cold and unchanged.

Christmas works the same way. The world didn't get brighter overnight when Jesus was born. Rome was still Rome. Herod was still Herod. People were still struggling. But the light had arrived. And darkness had officially been put on a countdown it couldn't stop.

I think December 21 is God's little reminder that just because you're still in the dark doesn't mean the dark is winning.

Sometimes the gift isn't immediate relief. Sometimes the gift is knowing this is as dark as it gets. The turning point already happened. You're just living in the early minutes of the change.

So if you're tired. Or discouraged. Or wondering how much longer this season is going to last. Mark the day. The light has started its slow, stubborn return.

No fanfare. No fireworks. Just the quiet promise that the days ahead hold more light than the ones behind you. And that's a pretty good Christmas present.

~ Farmer Girl on Facebook



## CHRISTIAN FIRE DRILLS

Remember back in your school days when you had fire drills? The alarm would sound and everyone was instructed to stand up and orderly file out of the room to a designated exit and gather at a specific spot outside where the teacher would account for everyone. Time and time again they put us through that same process. If you were about to take a test you dreaded, a fire drill could be a very welcome interruption, but at other times it was an annoyance. It all depended on the situation at the time.



Why fire drills? Why did they do this over and over again? Well, they wanted to build an automatic response in you so if there was ever a real danger you would be 'trained' to respond in a way that might save your life with the least chance of injury.

In Christianity, from the day you get saved, we hear the message that we should pray and read the Word of God. Other things are also important, but prayer and Bible study are supposed to be a daily event, but why? Sometimes it is exciting and welcomed, and other times it is drudgery or boring. Year after year we read the Bible and year after year we pray. Why? Often it just seems repetitive and unfruitful.

I was just reading Psalm 42. Many of you remember the song "As the deer panteth after the water". It is a beautiful worship song, but I doubt if it really catches the picture of Psalm 42 and 43. Psalm 42 begins with the picture of a deer seeking the water, but the rest of the Psalm along with Psalm 43 really tells the story. It is not just a thirsty deer seeking a drink, it is a frightened, hunted, panicked deer with its heart pounding and eyes wide open, running for its life.

The Psalmist writes of how he longs for those days past when he worshipped God in His sanctuary with others, but now he has been driven away and he is depressed and he is losing hope. He reminds himself that he will again praise God even though right now he cannot see that help and refuge. He doesn't understand why this is happening and why God would allow this, but because he has been through 'the fire drill', he can go back to the thought that God will once again be his refuge and protection. Before he found himself like a deer on the run he had 'practiced' worshipping and serving God. He had a foundation and experience on which he could rely in times like this.

Is it easy? No! But if we have practiced and practiced the drill, we will respond the right way in times of trouble. Will we be discouraged, dismayed, frightened, disappointed, and tempted to quit? Yes, but because we have prepared ourselves somewhere in the midst of it all we will begin to ask ourselves "why are you so troubled and why are you so depressed"? We will tell ourselves and remind ourselves to once again hope in God. Sometimes there is no one else to do it. We begin to encourage OURSELVES in the Lord.

When we are caught like deer in the headlights, frozen in fear so we cannot move, with danger speeding toward



us, He will lead us beside still waters and restore our souls. These are promises that must be 'drilled' into us over and over again. It is necessary to 'get it' in times of peace and comfort so that when the danger comes we will survive. We cannot live by feelings, but we must live according to the promises and truth of our Lord and Savior. The alarm sounds daily and we need the drill.

*~ Tom Stewart on Facebook*

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## HOW TO FIND OUT ABOUT CHURCH CANCELLATIONS

CCC Bulk Texts: Patty has set up text messaging and voice messaging so everyone is in the loop in case of emergencies.

For those that have not opted-in yet for text messages, see Patty will work with you to get that set up. If you don't have a cell phone and would like to receive voice messages, let her know so she can get that set up as well.

If you aren't sure we have your number, please fill out one of the yellow cards in the pews and put it in the offering plate. You will receive a text if we have your cell number in our Directory. The originating number is 844-616-6359, and we strongly encourage you to put this number into your contact list. Messages are only sent as necessary.

### WFSB-TV (CBS), channels 3 and 30

The information scrolls through continuously at the bottom of the screen. You can also check online, <https://www.wfsb.com/weather/closings/>  
**WTNH-TV (ABC), News8 and MYTV9**  
<https://www.wtnh.com/weather/closings/>  
**WVIT-TV (NBC)**

<https://www.nbcconnecticut.com/weather/school-closings/>  
Click on three "hamburger" lines on left; in drop-down menu, scroll down to Weather, then School Closings.

### FOX 61

<https://www.fox61.com/>  
Select Weather, then Closings and Delays.



## 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 (resuming January 9), 1:00 PM in Room 4.  
See pg. 4.

### **MEN'S DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRY**

Saturdays (resuming January 10),  
9:00 AM in Collins Hall. See pg. 3.

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### **HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

Thursday, January 1, all day!

### **EXALT TEAM MEETING**

Sunday, January 4, after the service, in Conf. Room.

### **BRING HOLIDAY DECORATIONS BOXES FROM SCHOOL**

Sunday, January 4, after the service. Please help!



### **FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY**

Tuesday, January 6

### **ANNUAL REPORT SUBMISSIONS DUE**

Wednesday, January 7

### **CHRISTMAS UN-DECORATION MOBILIZATION**



Saturday, January 10, 10:00 AM. Please help!

### **DEACONS MEETING**

Sunday, January 11, after the service, in Room 4.

### **MONTHLY PRAYER MEETING**



Saturday, January 17

10:00 AM in Collins Hall. See pg. 3.



### **PROCLAIM TEAM MEETING MAKE DISCIPLES TEAM MEETING**

Sunday, January 18, after the service, in Room 4.



### **NEW MEMBERS MEETING**

Sunday, January 18, after the service.



### **YOUNG ADULTS MINISTRY**

Sunday, January 18, at 3:00 PM at CCC. See pg. 3.

### **DAY OF BLESSING PRAYER**



Saturday, January 24, 1:00 - 4:00 PM in Collins Hall.  
See pg. 1.

### **ANNUAL MEETING**

## **ANNUAL MEETING**

Sunday, January 25, after the service, in the Sanctuary.  
See pg. 1.

### **MEN'S DINNER FELLOWSHIP**

Thursday, January 29, at 6:00 PM. See pg. 3.

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

### **JANUARY BIRTHDAYS**

Cheryl Scholes, January 3

Patty Bauer, January 6

Dorene Grace, January 11

Billie Taylor, January 16

Victoria Pappacoda January 26

Gabrielle Clark, January 27

Patricia Parris, January 30



### **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

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

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*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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### **CHRIST COMMUNITY CHURCH**



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