

THE CRIER

A PUBLICATION OF COLCHESTER FEDERATED CHURCH

A Note From Pastor Lauren

August here at Colchester Federated Church means that we are in VBS-mode. It's one of those "all hands on deck" events in the life of our congregation. There's a lot that I appreciate about Vacation Bible School. I love that it's a free event open to the whole community. I love that we are providing assistance for families with childcare in the summer. I love how excited the children get and that we are providing a safe and welcoming place for them to have fun and learn about God's love. I love that there are many former VBS kids who love it so much that they volunteer to be youth helpers. I love the help we receive from our congregation in the form of donations and hands-on help from adult volunteers. It really is our church at our best!

This year's theme is ***Road Trip! On the Go with God.*** It's based on Joshua 1:9 "The Lord your God is with you wherever you go."

I am a big fan of road trips. After my sister graduated from Michigan State University's Law School, she moved to Washington. I was in Seminary at the time and living in Massachusetts. So I drove from Newton, Massachusetts to Wadsworth, Ohio (our hometown). Maureen drove from East Lansing, Michigan to Wadsworth. We met up at our par-

ents' house and loaded up the car, using every available inch of space in that Honda Accord! And then we drove together from Ohio to Washington. We spent a few days with family in Minnesota. Otherwise, we were on our own, driving the rest of the way through Minnesota, South Dakota, Wyoming, Montana, Idaho, and arriving in Washington. That summer I literally drove from coast to coast, from Massachusetts to Washington. It was incredible! Our Sister Road Trip remains a fond memory that Maureen and I reminisce about often.

It feels cheesy, but I have found it to be true — life is about the journey, not the destination. If we spend all our time focusing on where we are going (let alone lamenting, "are we there yet?") we will miss out on what's right in front of us. We will miss out on enjoying the experiences we can have along the way. As our VBS week will soon be underway, I will certainly be thinking about that Sister Road Trip as a great example of God going with us — wherever we go. Have you ever been on a road trip? What comes to mind when you consider your experience? I hope you have a wonderful rest of your summer, and enjoy all the moments on the journey.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Lauren

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Ministers:

All of the Members of the Church are called to serve in daily life.

Staff:

Rev. Lauren L. Ostrout, *Pastor*
Kimberly Lewis, *Music Director*
Nicole Hosford, *Office Manager*
& *Christian Education Director*
Tom St. Louis, *Treasurer*
Dave Hock, *Custodian*

Colchester Federated Church
60 Main St., Colchester, CT.
06415

Office Hours M-F 9 AM—1 PM
Phone (860)537-5189

Email/Website:
cfc06415@gmail.com
colchesterfederatedchurch.org

WORSHIP INFORMATION

SCRIPTURE READERS

August 3	Luke 12:13-21	Becca Hallock-Wolff
August 10	Luke 12:32-40	Alice Walls
August 17	Luke 12:49-56	Susan Sanford
August 24	Luke 13:10-17	Mark Bosse
August 31	Luke 14:1, 7-14	Cara Lovering

Interested in being a scripture reader? Please reach out to John Dooley

Colchester Federated Church **SUNDAY SCHOOL**



Rally Day! Sept. 14th

Weekly programming for youth in PreK - 8th grade!
For more information contact Nicole

Scan QR Code
to register!



IN OUR PRAYERS

For those who are ill or recovering:

John Barr
Colleen Damron (*Joyce Johnson's friend*)
Donna Mildrum (*Joyce Johnson's sister*)
Dick Paige
Ted Sanford
Wade Shepard (*Barbara Bosse's cousin*)
Jeannette Tomlinson

For those grieving the loss of a loved one:

Joyce & John Johnson for the loss of Joyce's mother, Jacquelyn Mildrum

Prayers for all those who are providing care for family members.

Prayers for all those who are grieving.

Prayers for all who are in recovery and struggling with sobriety.

Prayers for all those separated from their families.

Prayers for our country, its leaders, and for peace here and in the world.

Names will remain on the prayer list for 1- 3 months unless otherwise communicated to the church office.

THANK YOU & CELEBRATIONS

We are very thankful to so many people in our church community...

... Thank you to Mark Bosse, Deborah Howard, and Tim Kyser for all their hard work on the new security system.

... Thank you to Dick Paige, Pam Melchior, Christine Miskell, and Jocelyn Nadeau for all their work on the church's flower gardens. Special Thank you to Dick & Pam for clearing out the side of the church near the handicap parking. It looks amazing!

... Thank you to all those who donated supplies, made monetary donations, and donated gift cards to support VBS.

... Thank you to Susan and Ted Sanford for organizing the Youth Mission Trip.

... Thank you to Pastor Jack for preaching and covering pastoral emergencies while Pastor Lauren was on vacation.

... Thank you to Jim & Charlie Ringuette and Richard Hosford for installing the AC units around the church.

... Thank you to Richard Hosford for replacing the remaining locks on the exterior and kitchen doors.

We thank those who check on and open/close windows and doors... for those who bring in paper goods to offset our expenses, and for those who donate their time and efforts to maintain and repair our buildings and grounds.

How pretty it is to walk or ride up the driveway. All the gardens are in bloom and well trimmed and black mulch makes the areas attractive. To achieve these pretty sights takes lots of hard work and I for one am so grateful.

My sincere thanks and appreciation to Dick & Connie Paige, Avis Hull, Pam Melchior, Jocelyn Nadeau, and anyone else who pulled a weed! A job well done!

With love, Dolores



08/01	Alvan Simmons
08/02	Elliot Lewis
	David Walls
08/03	Jennifer Sevigny
08/04	Luke Sanford
08/07	Ethan Moores
08/08	Rev. Lauren Ostrout
08/11	Luca Rago
08/13	Pamela Melchior
08/16	Isaac Pensa
08/21	Jack Stillwell
08/26	Kim Lewis
	Frank Tomlinson
08/28	John Dooley
08/29	Susan Rissanen



08/04	Megan & Brady Stillwell
08/10	Nicole & Richard Hosford
08/16	Cheryl & Al Letendre
	Necia & Larry Stopa
08/17	Kim & Dave Lewis
08/20	Rev. Dr. Cheryl & Jim Caronna
08/21	Judean & Steve Bradstreet
08/24	Barbara & Mark Bosse
08/28	Jennifer & Chuck Totten

THANK YOU & CELEBRATIONS



DYNAMIC DUO!

A HUGE shoutout and THANK YOU to Pam & Dick for all of their hard work on the side of the church.

Take a look next time you're at CFC and admire the amazing job they have done with clearing out all the brush and laying down mulch!

Photo Credit: Pastor Lauren



CONGRATULATIONS!

Susan & Ted Sanford are happy to announce the marriage of their son, Luke to Allison Camboulives.

The wedding took place in July and was officiated by Pastor Lauren.

Congratulations, Luke & Allison!

Photo Credits: Susan Sanford



CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations to Ruth Herstein on her Baptism that was held at the Salmon River on July 19th.

Thank you to everyone who came to witness Ruth's baptism and be a part of this step on her faith journey!

A heartfelt thank you to Deborah Howard for making a quilt for Ruth to commemorate this special occasion.

Photo Credit: Nicole Hosford

MISSION & WITNESS

SUMMER FOOD BANK

With school closing for the summer, there are children in our town who are not receiving the breakfast and lunch program. They are home and often have to make lunch for themselves and their siblings. The food bank in the summer has different needs to accommodate these children.

Please consider helping by adding a couple of the following items to your shopping cart:

Granola Bars

Cereal

Applesauce

Fruit Cups

Peanut Butter

White Bread

Fruit Snacks

Microwave Meals

Mac & Cheese

Real Fruit (*apples, clementines, oranges*)

Jelly

Items can be placed in the baskets found at the back of the sanctuary on Sunday morning.

Thank you!
Mission & Witness
Lynn, Todd, Dave, Alice, and Wendy



SUNDAY SCHOOL

Backpack Blessing

Youth are encouraged to bring their backpacks for a special blessing on
Rally Day, Sept 14th!



BACK-TO-SCHOOL BLESSiNG

Walk in kindness, shine
with courage, go with God.

Ephesians 4:32



SNAPSHOTS AROUND CFC



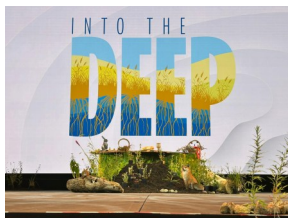
Photo Credits: Steve Bradstreet

SYNOD REFLECTION

Reflections from General Synod 35 – "Into the Deep"

By Nicole Hosford

This July, I had the honor of serving as a delegate at the United Church of Christ's 35th General Synod in Kansas City, Missouri. The theme, "Into the Deep," was inspired by Luke 5:4, where Jesus tells Simon Peter to "put out into deep water."



This call to deeper faith and action was woven throughout the week as we worshiped, learned, connected, and made decisions together as a wider church.

Delegates, selected by UCC Conferences (*CFC belongs to the Southern New England Conference*), represent the diverse voices of our denomination. Our role goes beyond voting; we are called to listen, reflect, and discern where God is leading the church next. We gathered to vote on church structure, social justice resolutions, and more—all while forming relationships through meaningful worship, workshops, and fellowship.

I served on Committee 8, which focused on immigration. We engaged in deep and often emotional conversation, including hearing powerful stories from those directly impacted by current and past immigration policies. I'm proud to have played a part in shaping this resolution, which has since made national headlines.

(You can read the [Full Resolution Here](#) and a related [News Article Here](#).)

One moment that stood out to me came during a particularly tense plenary session. A boy, no older than 10, approached the mic during a Speak Out and said he wanted to tell a few jokes to lighten the mood. For 60 seconds, the whole room laughed and cheered. That brave young voice reminded us all to breathe, to "chill out," and to remember the joy in our work together.

I was deeply inspired by the many young adults at Synod. They spoke with passion and courage on important issues and reminded me of why youth ministry is so vital. Their faith and energy moved me to do more, to be more, and to offer more to our young people at CFC. I even started dreaming about bringing a few of them to Synod in 2028!

I also had the chance to connect with others in faith formation (aka Sunday School). Sharing joys and struggles

with peers from around the country—and especially within our own conference—reminded me that I'm not alone in this work. Children and youth ministry is evolving, and we need to evolve with it. The old ways won't always work for today's generation. And that's okay. Our youth are amazing, and they deserve fresh approaches rooted in love and authenticity.

One of the most powerful moments of Synod I experienced was the closing worship. Rev. Antony Coleman preached an unforgettable sermon. He spoke about how too many churches today resemble tidy, monocultural ecosystems—like perfectly mowed lawns—rather than the wild, Spirit-filled, diverse meadows of the early church. He asked: *What would it look like if we let go of control, did radically less, and allowed God to guide the growth? What if we let parts of our ministry grow more freely, more organically, more deeply?* (Watch [Rev. Antony Coleman's Sermon here](#).)

That image stuck with me. What if our youth ministry looked more like a meadow—less about rigid structure on Sunday morning and more about natural, Spirit-led growth? What if faith was formed and strengthened not just through Bible lessons, but through community, service, joy, and simply being together?

I'm ready to embrace the wild, beautiful work of nurturing faith like a meadow. I feel called to go "Into the Deep" with our youth—trusting that God is already there, waiting for us.

Together in Christ,
Nicole



Synod Baptismal Font



New London Association Delegates:
Rev. Christa Swenson & Nicole Hosford

GIVING UPDATES

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

Uses & Sources (Income Statement)

Uses:

Payments to Contractors \$115,520.00

Sources:

Pledges \$75,924.00

Lord's Laundry \$5,574.00

Gifts \$19,943.00

Fund Raising \$486.40

Opening Balance \$3,131.92

Sub-Total \$105,059.32

Gap to Close \$10,460.68



MONTHLY PLEDGING

	June	Year to Date
Total Pledged	\$16,253	\$97,520
Total Received	\$18,183	\$99,607
Difference	\$1,930	\$2,087
Percent Received	112%	102%

ANNOUNCEMENTS

8 . 2 . 2025 | 9AM - 2PM

CHURCH TAG-SALE

COLCHESTER FEDERATED CHURCH
60 MAIN ST, COLCHESTER, CT

SAVE THE DATE! 9/21 POTLUCK BRUNCH

We have had, to say the least, a chaotic five years -- with COVID, reopening, dealing with the building about to fall down, egregious security violations!

Now that things are calming down -- building fixed, a security system about to go in -- the Diaconate is feeling now is a **great** time for planning for the future. So, on Sunday September 21, Diaconate is holding a Strategic Planning Forum after worship in the Stage Room, with a Pot Luck!

We value YOUR input as a Congregation! Bring a dish and come prepared to **brainstorm**.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP

Colchester Federated Church is establishing a bereavement support group for adult church members and interested others beyond the church. The support group will be meeting on the second Friday of each month in the church Library. The next meeting will be on **Friday, August 8 at 6 PM.**

This will be an open-ended, recurrent type group limited to 6–12 regular members and a facilitator. The typical meeting length will be approximately 90 minutes. Remember, we are peers, not professionals. This group is for those who have experienced the death of a loved one, and our purpose is to help each other cope with our grief.

Registration is necessary to join the group; if you have interest or questions, please contact the Church Office or the group's facilitator Kurt Frantzen.

Contact the Church Office:

Email: cfc06415@gmail.com

Phone: (860) 537-5189



CHURCH CALENDAR

AUGUST 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Office Closed 12 PM AA (Lib) Nicole Hosford Off	2 9:00 AM Tag Sale 
3 9 AM Worship Service (S) 7 PM Boy Scouts Committee Meeting (SR)	4 12 PM AA (Lib) 7:30 PM AA (Lib)	5 12 PM AA (Lib)	6 12 PM AA (Lib) 7:30 PM AA (Lib)	7 10 AM AA (Lib)	8 12 PM AA (Lib) 6 PM Bereavement Group (Lng)	9 9:30 AM AA (SR) 9:30 AM Al-Anon (JR/Lib)
10 9 AM Worship Service (S)	11 8 AM VBS Breakfast & Safe Church Training (SR)	12	13	14	15	16 9:30 AM AA (SR) 9:30 AM Al-Anon (JR/Lib)
	Vacation Bible School 9 AM – 12 PM					
		7 PM Stewardship (Lng)			12:30 PM Volunteer Lunch (SR)	
17 9 AM Worship Service (S) 10 AM VBS Crafting Day (JR) Dave Hock Off	18 12 PM AA (Lib) 7:30 PM AA (Lib)	19 12 PM AA (Lib) 7 PM Deacons (Lng)	20 Crier Deadline 12 PM AA (Lib) 7:30 PM AA (Lib)	21 10 AM AA (Lib)	22 12 PM AA (Lib)	23 9:30 AM AA (SR) 9:30 AM Al-Anon (JR/Lib)
	Pastor Lauren Vacation					
24 9 AM Worship Service (S) Kim Lewis Off	25 12 PM AA (Lib) 6:30 PM Sub Committee Meeting (Lng) 7:30 PM AA (Lib)	26 12 PM AA (Lib)	27 12 PM AA (Lib) 7:30 PM AA (Lib)	28 10 AM AA (Lib)	29 12 PM AA (Lib)	30 9:30 AM AA (SR) 9:30 AM Al-Anon (JR/Lib)
31 9 AM Worship Service (S) 10 AM Prayer Circle (Lng)	Nicole Hosford Vacation					

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*Where flowers bloom,
so does hope.*