

# THE CRIER

A PUBLICATION OF COLCHESTER FEDERATED CHURCH

Photo Credit: Unsplash by Jeffrey Hamilton

## A Note From Pastor Lauren

Advent is my favorite liturgical season. Because of autumn ending and winter beginning in North America during Advent, it is perhaps easier to envision that silent night, holy night we will sing about together on Christmas Eve soon to come. I just happen to find this time of year to be full of meaning.

Advent is a season of waiting and wonder, with familiar themes and stories we hear year after year. Yet I find that every Advent has something new to reveal to us, if we do our best to be present and pay attention. Even the familiar themes of Advent—hope, peace, joy, and love—take on new meanings depending on what is going on in our lives and in our world.

What does it mean to contemplate hope when a situation in our life or in the world feels hopeless? Or consider peace in a time of war? What does it mean to think about joy when our hearts are already bursting with joy or when our pain and grief feel overwhelming? What about con-

sidering love in its myriad forms—the love we have for our families and friends, the love we have for our coworkers and classmates, the love we have for our church family, the love we have for our neighbors, community, and the world? What about thinking of the love God has for humanity—love so amazing that God came to us as a vulnerable baby born in Bethlehem?

Yes, we hear familiar stories during the Season of Advent. We think of the well-known themes of hope, peace, joy, and love. But our lives are not exactly the same year after year. The changes we experience may just change how we understand those old stories, somehow made new in our retelling. What might this holy season of Advent have in store for you to discover?

See you in church,  
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

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# WORSHIP INFORMATION



## December 3rd - Hope

9 AM ~Hope, Joining Sunday & Communion

Scripture: Mark 13:24-37

Reader: Oliver De Leon Nadeau



## December 10th - Peace

9 AM ~Peace

Scripture: Mark 1:1-8

Reader: Lynn Stefanowicz



## December 17th - Joy

9 AM ~Joy

Scripture: John 1:6-8, 19-28

Reader: Susan Sanford



## December 24th - Love - CHRISTMAS EVE

9 AM ~ Family Service w/ Pageant

9 PM ~ Lessons & Carols

Scripture: Luke 1:26-38

Readers: 9AM– John Johnson & Ashlyn Barrows

9 PM– Mark Bosse, Tracy Gale, Debbie Larew, & Becca Hallock-Wolff

*Our Christmas Eve Offering will benefit the Retired Ministers and Missionaries Funds of both the American Baptist Churches and the United Church of Christ. Your gift helps give back to those who dedicated their lives in service to God and God's Church.*

## December 31st

**9 AM- Christmas Carol Sing!**

All are invited to wear a Christmas sweater to worship!

Scripture: Luke 2:22-40

Reader: Steve Bradstreet

# WORSHIP INFORMATION

Colchester Federated Church  
60 Main St, Colchester, CT

## Christmas Eve Services

9 AM ~ Family Service w/ Pageant

9 PM ~ Lessons & Carols



CFC's Annual

## Christmas Pageant

**December 24th 9 AM**

All are Welcome!

# WORSHIP INFORMATION



## CHRISTMAS CAROL SING

DEC 31 | 9 AM

All are invited to wear their favorite Christmas sweater!

COLCHESTER FEDERATED CHURCH 60 MAIN ST. COLCHESTER, CT 06415

## Epiphany SUNDAY

January 7, 2024

It has become a tradition at Colchester Federated Church to receive Star Words on Epiphany Sunday. A word to reflect upon during the year ahead. A word that could guide you on your way, just as the Magi followed the Christmas Star to find Jesus in Bethlehem. Each year, Nicole cuts out the stars and Pastor Lauren writes a word on each one.

We hope that you will be able to come worship with us and pick up your Star Word! If you are unable to come that Sunday, you are always welcome to stop by the Church Office to pick one up as well.



# IN OUR PRAYERS

**For those who are ill or recovering:**

**Ethan Collins** (*John Dooly's grandson*)

**Sadie Dombrowski**

**Elizabeth Emory**

**Eleanor Keller**

**Kathy Landry**

**Tammy Savalle** (*Michele Howard's Sister*)

**Teri Sawchuk**

**Jacki Walter** (*Karen Monteleone's sister*)

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.***

# CELEBRATIONS & THANKS



- 12/03 Matthew McCune
- 12/05 Tanya Robillard
- 12/08 Tom Gerundo
- 12/10 Mitch Koziol
- 12/11 Ava McCarvill
- 12/12 Ted Sanford
- 12/15 Katie Larew  
Ryan Moores
- 12/16 Brian Rago
- 12/20 Robert Partington
- 12/25 Odessa Turner
- 12/29 Shauna Rago
- 12/30 Kaelah Clark
- 12/31 Joyce Johnson



- 12/29 Karen & Robert Partington

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

... Thank you to Dick Paige for winterizing the flower beds by the church office and for planting bulbs that will bring beauty in the Spring.

... Thank you to Deborah Howard and all those who donated items for the raffle baskets, made soup, baked cookies, and volunteered their time to help make this year's Holly Fair a great success!

... Thank you to Pastor Lauren and the Deacons for holding the New Member classes.

... Thank you to Katie Fraiser for donating the pumpkins we used for the Thanksgiving Gratitudes.

... Thank you to the members of Church Life for decorating the pulpit with flowers and organizing the Coffee Hour volunteers each week.

... Thank you to Pastor Lauren & Neill Ostrout for doing various dumps runs.

... Thank you to Tom St. Louis for fixing the vanity in the women's bathroom.

... Thank you to Deborah & Terry Howard, Troop 72, Kurt Frantzen and Tim Kyser for their help in clearing off the stage.

... Thank you to Rich Tremaine & Rich Hosford for fixing Pastor Lauren's office door.

... Thank you to Karen Partington & Dolores Sawchuk for joining the Sunday School classes to share about the sleeping bags that My Brother's Keeper makes for the homeless population.

... Thank you to Debbie Bardon for decorating the flower planters in front of the church.

... Thank you to all those who stayed after worship on Nov. 26th to help with the annual "Hanging of the Greens".

**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.**

## Giving Update

	September	Year to Date
<b>Total Pledged</b>	\$12,422	\$124,128
<b>Total Received</b>	\$12,858	\$121,452
<b>Difference</b>	\$436	\$(2,766)
<b>Percent Received</b>	104%	98%

# SNAPSHOTS AROUND CFC!



**Photo Credits:** Steve Bradstreet, Barbara Bosse, Rich Hosford and Deborah Howard



# MISSION & WITNESS

## Giving Tree

It's "**Giving Tree**" time again, which means that we get to bring smiles and joy to children at Christmas time! (Woohoo!! Yay us!!) In continued support of our congregation's covenant with the "Adopt a Social Worker" program, Mission and Witness will again be collecting gifts for kids who are currently in DCF care.

This year, we are delighted to be able to return to our tradition of hanging tags on the Christmas tree in the sanctuary. (In addition to the gifts listed on the tags, our DCF Social Worker is always more than happy to accept additional items such as gift cards or children's books, games, activities, etc. that she can distribute to children and families with ongoing needs.)

**If you're able to take a tag or two, please return your selected gift(s) by Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup> so they can be delivered to DCF during that week. Please note that all gifts should be *unwrapped with the tag attached*. If you're unable to get to church but would like to purchase a gift, please contact me (Laurie Gerundo) and I will give you a few options from the remaining tags.**

As always, thank you all for your ongoing kindness and generosity. We wish you a wonderfully merry and peaceful Christmas.

***Ministry of Mission and Witness:***

Laurie, Lynn, Rick, Todd, and Wendy





# SUNDAY SCHOOL

## Did you know...

Each Sunday youth have their own special worship service in their class? It's True! We share our joys and concerns, say the Lord's Prayer, take a collection, and sing the Doxology each week! This year's Sunday School collection will be used to support Officer Barrett and his efforts with Helping Hartford's Homeless!



Youth took part in a special activity on November 19th learning about Officer Barrett and his work in helping the homeless population in Hartford, a group of people often overlooked. The ladies from My Brother's Keeper also joined us to talk with the youth about the sleeping bags that they make. The sleeping bags are donated to various organizations to keep the homeless population warm in the winter months.

## DATES TO REMEMBER

**December 3rd** - Communion Sunday, No Sunday School

**December 24th** - **Christmas Pageant!** All are invited to join us at 9 AM for worship with the pageant. No Sunday School (*No Children's Message*)

**December 31st** - Christmas Carol Sing, No Sunday School (*No Children's Message*)

**January 7th** - Epiphany, Communion Sunday, No Sunday School

# POINSETTIA SALE



Christmas Poinsettia Sale  
Orders taken through Sunday, **December 10, 2023**

Poinsettias are on sale for the Christmas Season!  
Help decorate the sanctuary with the beautiful colors of the season!

Colors: White, Red, Marble, or Jingle Bells (red & white spin art)

	Quantity	Color	Dedication
6.5" potted Poinsettia (\$12.50)			
7.5" potted Poinsettia (\$22.00)			
8" potted Poinsettia (\$36.00)			

\_\_\_\_\_ Pick up at the church after the 9 PM Christmas Eve Service

\_\_\_\_\_ Donate to home-bound

\_\_\_\_\_ Delivery! (Week of Dec 26<sup>th</sup> courtesy of Avis , Amy, and Joyce!)


Name:	
Phone:	

Orders may be placed in the offering or by contacting Amy Domeika  
Please make checks payable to the Colchester Federated Church at time of order or can be accepted.

Flowers will be purchased at Ballek's Garden Center of East Haddam.

# CHURCH CALENDAR

## DECEMBER 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					<b>1</b> 12 PM AA (Lib)	<b>2</b> 9:30 AM AA (SR) 9:30 AM Al-Anon (JR/Lib) 6:30 PM CCO Holiday Homecoming (S/SR)
<b>3 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent</b> 9 AM Worship Service (S) 12 PM Discipleship (Lng) 3 PM Pickleball (G) 7 PM Boy Scouts Committee Meeting (SR)	<b>4</b> 12 PM AA (Lib) 7:30 PM AA (Lib) 7 PM Boy Scouts (JR/SR/G) 7:30 PM AA (Lib)	<b>5</b> 10:30 Zoom Bible Study 12 PM AA (Lib) 6 PM AA Women's Meditation (Lib)	<b>6</b> 10 AM My Brother's Keeper (JR) 12 PM AA (Lib) 5 PM Parks & Rec (SR) 7:30 PM AA (Lib)	<b>7</b> 10 AM AA (Lib) 5 PM Parks & Rec (SR) 6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal (S)	<b>8</b> 12 PM AA (Lib) 5 PM Parks & Rec (SR)	<b>9</b> 9:30 AM AA (SR) 9:30 AM Al-Anon (JR/Lib) 4 PM Parent's Night Out (G/SR/JR/Lng)
<b>10 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent</b> 9 AM Worship Service (S) 3 PM Pickleball (G) 12 PM Discipleship (Lng)	<b>11</b> 12 PM AA (Lib) 7 PM Boy Scouts (JR/SR/G) 7:30 PM AA (Lib)	<b>12</b> 10:30 Zoom Bible Study 12 PM AA (Lib) 6 PM AA Women's Meditation (Lib) 7 PM Stewardship (Lng)	<b>13</b> 9:30 AM Staff Meeting (O) 10 AM My Brother's Keeper (JR) 12/7:30 PM AA (Lib) 5:30 PM Girl Scout #63000 (SR) 6 PM Girl Scouts #63223 (JR)	<b>14</b> 10 AM AA (Lib) 6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal (S)	<b>15</b> 12 PM AA (Lib)	<b>16</b> 9:30 AM AA (SR) 9:30 AM Al-Anon (JR/Lib)
<b>17 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent</b> 9 AM Worship Service (S) 12 PM Discipleship (Lng) 3 PM Pickleball (G) <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: fit-content; margin-top: 5px;">Dave Hock Off</div>	<b>18</b> 12 PM AA (Lib) 7 PM Boy Scouts (JR/SR/G) 7:30 PM AA (Lib)	<b>19</b> 10:30 Zoom Bible Study 12 PM AA (Lib) 6 PM AA Women's Meditation (Lib) 7 PM Deacons (Lng)	<b>20 Crier Deadline</b> 10 AM My Brother's Keeper (JR) 12 PM AA (Lib) 7:30 PM AA (Lib)	<b>21</b> 10 AM AA (Lib) 6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal (S)	<b>22</b> 12 PM AA (Lib)	<b>23</b> 9:30 AM AA (SR) 9:30 AM Al-Anon (JR/Lib)
<b>24 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent</b> 9 AM Christmas Eve Service Family Service w/ Pageant (S) 9 PM Christmas Eve Service: Lesson & Carols (S) <b>31 New Year's Eve</b> 9 AM Worship Service: Christmas Carol Sing (S) 10:30 AM Prayer Circle (Lng) 3 PM Pickleball (G)	<b>25 Office Closed</b> <b>Christmas Day</b> 12 PM AA (Lib) 7:30 PM AA (Lib) 	<b>26 Office Closed</b> 12 PM AA (Lib) 6 PM AA Women's Meditation (Lib)	<b>27</b> 10 AM My Brother's Keeper (JR) 12 PM AA (Lib) 6 PM Girl Scouts #63223 (JR) 7:30 PM AA (Lib) <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: fit-content; margin-top: 5px;">Pastor Lauren Off</div>	<b>28</b> 10 AM AA (Lib) <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: fit-content; margin-top: 5px;">Nicole Hosford Off</div>	<b>29 Office Closed</b> 12 PM AA (Lib) <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: fit-content; margin-top: 5px;">Nicole Hosford Off</div>	<b>30</b> 9:30 AM AA (SR) 9:30 AM Al-Anon (JR/Lib)

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