

THE CRIER

A PUBLICATION OF COLCHESTER FEDERATED CHURCH

A Note From Pastor Lauren

This year, the Season of Lent begins on February 14th (also Valentine's Day). I will once again offer Ashes to Go in front of the church from 7 – 9 AM and our Discipleship Class will help lead the Ash Wednesday Service at 7 PM in our sanctuary. Ash Wednesday falling on Valentine's Day has happened once before during my ministry at CFC, and it does (admittedly) feel a bit odd.

For those Christians who observe the Season of Lent, which obviously begins on Ash Wednesday, this is a day that we intentionally set aside. We are reminded that life is finite and precious. We have ashes imposed on us with the tender words, *"Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return."*

I often remember the loving words of minister and artist Rev. Jan Richardson who reflected on Ash Wednesday in her poem "Blessing the Dust." Richardson wrote, "So let us be marked not for sorrow. And let us be marked not for shame. Let us be

marked not for false humility or for thinking we are less than we are but for claiming what God can do within the dust, within the dirt, within the stuff of which the world is made, and the stars that blaze in our bones, and the galaxies that spiral inside the smudge we bear."

Yes, this act of remembering that we are dust is *also* about affirming that God can do a whole lot within the dust and the dirt and the stuff of which the world is made. It need not be a day where we are marked for sorrow and shame so much as a day for remembering that stars blaze in our bones and galaxies spiral inside the smudge we bear. We are part of God's good creation, after all. Maybe it's not such a bad thing to remember on a day where we can also give thanks to God for love in many forms.

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

Office Hours M-F 9 AM—1 PM
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WORSHIP INFORMATION

Scripture Readings & Readers

Feb 4	Matthew 2:1-12	Oliver De Leon Nadeau
Feb 11	John 1:43-51	Susan Sanford
Feb 18	Mark 1:14-20	Cheryl Letendre
Feb 25	Mark 1:21-28	Lynn Stefanowicz

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

Colchester Federated Church

60 Main St, Colchester, CT

Ash Wednesday

February 14, 2024

Ashes to Go 7-9 AM

Worship Service 7 PM



IN OUR PRAYERS

For those who are ill or recovering:

Ethan Collins (*John Dooley's grandson*)

Sadie Dombrowski

John Dooley

Elizabeth Emory

Terry Howard, Sr

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



- 02/01 George Aronstamm
- 02/03 Abigail Floyd
Larry Floyd
- 02/04 Richard Hosford
Avery Moore
Hanna Moore
- 02/05 Julie Clark
- 02/06 Neil Malloy
- 02/08 Larry Stopa
- 02/11 Rachel Marvin
- 02/12 Laurie Simonds
- 02/14 Maryanne Ringuette
- 02/15 Judean Bradstreet
Aaron Hosford
Christopher Nurse
- 02/18 Madeleine O'Neil
- 02/19 Robert Misbach
- 02/20 JessieMay Kessler
- 02/21 Mary McGuire
- 02/23 Amy Domeika
- 02/24 Karah Pensa
Keith Sevigny
- 02/27 Catherine Misbach
Jocelyn Nadeau
Jim Ringuette



- 02/03 Deborah & Terry Howard
- 02/29 Mary & John McGuire

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

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

... Thank you to Tim Kyser for his persistence in negotiating with our insurance company.

... Thank you to Dave Hock and the members of Stewardship for cleaning up various areas of the building following the heavy rain we experienced.

... Thank you to Suzanne Cramer, Cheryl Letendre, and Susan Sanford for forming the Gifts & Leadership Committee.

... Thank you to Suzanne Cramer, Dick Paige, Kurt Frantzen, Kristina Lenda, and Cheryl Letendre for forming the Capital Campaign Committee.

... Thank you to Lydia Blacker for donating the new chairs, cart, and coffee pots for coffee hour.

... Thank you to Deborah Howard for overseeing the installation of new countertops in the kitchen.

... Thank you to Steve Bradstreet and Richard Hosford for taking down the creche and storing it away until next year.

... Thank you to Amy, Al, and Ian Domekia for unhooking the greens. Thank you to Donna Wink for taking down the manger on the front lawn of the church.

... Thank you to Tom St. Louis and Steve Bradstreet for their efforts in closing out the books for the year along with preparing the budget for 2024.

... Thank you to Richard Hosford for repairing the tiles in the gym.

... Thank you to Mark Bosse and Deborah Howard for meeting with various contractors to begin work around the church.

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

	December	Year to Date
Total Pledged	\$12,422	\$149,062
Total Received	\$12,225	\$149,890
Difference	\$197	\$828
Percent Received	98%	101%

MISSION & WITNESS

SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY



The Ministry of Mission & Witness is organizing a Souper Bowl soup (or meal in a can) collection from now through Super Bowl Sunday on **February 11**. All cans will be donated to the Colchester Food Bank. Please bring in your cans and place them in the bin labeled with your pick of who you think will win the Super Bowl!

We know our congregation cheers for various NFL teams, so feel free to wear your favorite team's gear on February 11th as we finish up our collection. Last year our generous congregation collected 186 cans! Can we score some extra points this year and top that number? Thank you!

SUNDAY SCHOOL

VBS PLANNING TEAM



It's hard to believe, but it is that time of year when we begin to plan for this summer's Vacation Bible School! If you are interested in helping with the planning process, taking on a lead role in one of the areas, or interested in volunteering for the week of VBS (Aug 5-9), please join us following worship on **February 18th** or contact Nicole.

INTERGENERATIONAL COMMUNION SUNDAY



On Communion Sundays the youth of CFC help lead the worship service. Pictured below are snapshots of our helpers from our service on January 14th, Epiphany Sunday. *(A week later than usual due to a snowstorm.)*



Photo Credits: Steve Bradstreet

ANNUAL MEETING

The members of the Colchester Federated Church are hereby called to meet for the Annual Meeting, to be held on February 25, 2024, immediately following the 9:00 a.m. Worship Service, for the following purposes:

1. To hear and act on the annual reports of the various Ministries and Teams of the Church for the year 2023;
2. To elect the officers, Ministry and such team members of Colchester Federated Church as called for in the By-laws for the year 2024-2025;
3. To hear and act on the Budget as presented by the Ministry of Stewardship; and
4. Any other business suitable and proper to come before said meeting.

Dated this 25th day of January, 2024.

Mark E. Bosse, Church Clerk.



We will be hosting a ***brunch potluck*** during our annual meeting. Please bring your favorite brunch food to share!

***All reports must be sent into the office by February 12th.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

COLCHESTER FEDERATED CHURCH'S
SHROVE TUESDAY

Pancake Supper

FEBRUARY 13TH
5:30-7 PM
IN THE STAGE ROOM



Free Will
Offering

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Continuing the tradition that was started by the Women's Fellowship over 50 years ago, several women were to meet at my home on Dec 19th to assemble gifts of fruit for people in our church who could use an act of fellowship during the Christmas season.

Due to several days of power outages and no telephone service at my home, with great help from Nicole, we were able to change our meeting place from my home to the church's Jerusalem Room.

Thanks to the assistance of my son, John, all the supplies, fruit and refreshments were moved to the church where Debby Barden, Avis Hull, Pastor Lauren Ostrout, Karen Partington and Jeanette Tomlinson gathered to make 24 trays of fruit which were delivered Tuesday and Wednesday by Mark & Barabara Bosse, Nicole Hosford, John & Joyce Johnson, Cheryl Letendre, Donna Wink, and John Sawchuk.

My sincere thanks and appreciation to all who helped to once again continue this long time tradition.

Best wishes for a happy, healthy, and successful 2024 to all.

Love, Dolores

Thank You!



MARCH 3RD AT 1:30 PM

CRAFTING & FELLOWSHIP

ALL ARE WELCOME TO JOIN US ON MARCH 3RD AT 1:30 PM FOR FELLOWSHIP AND CRAFTING!

THE COST IS \$15 PER PERSON (OF WHICH \$5 WILL BE DONATED TO CFC). EACH PERSON IN ATTENDANCE WILL BE ABLE TO MAKE TWO CARDS.

RESERVATION REQUIRED.

WE HOPE YOU WILL JOIN US FOR AN AFTERNOON OF FUN AND FELLOWSHIP WHILE SUPPORTING CFC!

To reserve your spot, please contact

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CHURCH CALENDAR

FEBRUARY 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 10 AM AA (Lib)	2 12 PM AA (Lib)	3 9:30 AM AA (SR) 9:30 AM Al-Anon (JR/ Lib) 12:30 Private Party (SR)
4 9 AM Worship Service (S) 12 PM Discipleship (Lng) 3 PM Pickleball (G) 7 PM Boy Scouts Committee Meeting (SR)	5 12 PM AA (Lib) 7 PM Boy Scouts (JR/ SR/G) 7:30 PM AA (Lib)	6 10:30 Zoom Bible Study 12 PM AA (Lib) 6 PM AA Women's Meditation (Lib)	7 9:30 AM Staff Meeting (O) 10 AM My Brother's Keeper (JR) 12 PM AA (Lib) 6 PM Girl Scouts #63223 (JR) 7:30 PM AA (Lib)	8 10 AM AA (Lib) 5:30 PM Girl Scout #63000 (JR) 6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal (S)	<div style="background-color: #90EE90; padding: 5px; border: 1px solid black;">Discipleship Retreat</div>	
11 9 AM Worship Service (S) 3 PM Pickleball (G) 3 PM Girl Scouts (SR)	12 12 PM AA (Lib) 7 PM Boy Scouts (JR/ SR/G) 7:30 PM AA (Lib)	13 10:30 Zoom Bible Study 12 PM AA (Lib) 5 PM Pancake Supper (SR/K) 6 PM AA Women's Meditation (Lib) 7 PM Stewardship (Lng)	14 7 AM Ashes to Go (O) 10 AM My Brother's Keeper (JR) 12/7:30 PM AA (Lib) 7 PM Ash Wednesday Service (S)	15 10 AM AA (Lib) 5:30 PM Girl Scout #63000 (JR) 6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal (S) 6:30 PM Community Book Club (SR)	16 12 PM AA (Lib)	17 9:30 AM AA (SR) 9:30 AM Al-Anon (JR/ Lib) 11:30 Community Book Club (SR)
<div style="background-color: #90EE90; padding: 5px; border: 1px solid black;">Discipleship Retreat</div>						
18 9 AM Worship Service (S) 10:15 AM Prayer Circle (Lng) 10:30 AM VBS Meeting (JR) 3 PM Pickleball (G)	19 Office Closed 12 PM AA (Lib) 7 PM Boy Scouts (JR/ SR/G) 7:30 PM AA (Lib)	20 Crier Deadline 10:30 Zoom Bible Study 12 PM AA (Lib) 6 PM AA Women's Meditation (Lib) 7 PM Deacons (Lng)	21 10 AM My Brother's Keeper (JR) 12 PM AA (Lib) 6 PM Girl Scouts #63223 (JR) 7:30 PM AA (Lib)	22 10 AM AA (Lib) 5:30 PM Girl Scout #63000 (JR) 6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal (S)	23 12 PM AA (Lib)	24 9:30 AM AA (SR) 9:30 AM Al-Anon (JR/ Lib)
<div style="background-color: #D8BFD8; padding: 5px; border: 1px solid black;">Dave Hock Off</div>						
25 9 AM Worship Service (S) 10 AM Annual Meeting (SR) 12 PM Discipleship (Lng) 3 PM Pickleball (G)	26 12 PM AA (Lib) 7 PM Boy Scouts (JR/ SR/G) 7:30 PM AA (Lib)	27 12 PM AA (Lib) 6 PM AA Women's Meditation (Lib)	28 10 AM My Brother's Keeper (JR) 12 PM AA (Lib) 7:30 PM AA (Lib)	29 10 AM AA (Lib) 5:30 PM Girl Scout #63000 (JR) 6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal (S)		

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Love is patient and kind.

1 Corinthians 13:4, ESV