

# The Crier

A PUBLICATION OF COLCHESTER FEDERATED CHURCH

## A Note From Pastor Lauren

Heaven is declaring God's glory;  
the sky is proclaiming [God's] handiwork.  
One day gushes the news to the next,  
and one night informs another what needs  
to be known.

Of course, there's no speech, no words—  
their voices can't be heard—  
but their sound extends throughout the  
world;  
their words reach the ends of the earth.  
~Psalm 19:1-4, *CEB*

The first day of spring (the vernal equinox) is March 19th this year according to *The Old Farmer's Almanac*—right on the horizon. I often associate Easter with the start of spring. Even though Easter is quite early this year (March 31st), we can't complain *too much* that spring hasn't arrived by the time we celebrate! Spring will indeed have sprung by the time we gather for Holy Week and Easter services at the end of March.

We remember that seasons come and go. And we can appreciate the beauty of the various seasons we experience here in Connecticut. Throughout Lent we have been (and will be) praying the Psalms together in worship during the Call to Worship. One reason I love the Psalms is because they draw upon images from the

natural world. The beauty of God's good creation is highlighted in the Psalms in moving ways, and the Psalms feel real as we move through our lives.

Take Psalm 19 (the Psalm designated as the Lectionary Psalm for March 3rd), and just listen to the pure poetry. Read it aloud and hear how moving the Psalmist talks about God and the natural world.

*Heaven is declaring the glory of God.  
The sky proclaims God's handiwork.*

Have you ever gazed upon a sunrise or a sunset and felt the presence of God? Have you ever looked outside during the glorious light of morning or the golden hour at the end of the day and thought about how God is with you through all the mountains and valleys of life? The Psalmist declares that God's glory is all around us. Let that thought be a comfort as we move through Lent, Holy Week, and Easter soon to come.

Grace & 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*

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# WORSHIP INFORMATION

## Scripture Readings & Readers

March 3	John 2:13-22	Ryan Rowe
March 10	John 3:14-21	David Walls
March 17	John 12:20-33	John Johnson
March 24	Mark 11:1-11	Cheryl Letendre
March 31	Mark 16:1-8	Lynn Stefanowicz

## HOLY WEEK SCRIPTURE READERS NEEDED

If you are interested in reading for either the Maundy Thursday (*March 28th at 7 PM*) or Good Friday (*March 29th at 12 PM*) services, please contact John Dooley either after worship.

Thank you!

## INTERGENERATIONAL COMMUNION SUNDAY

On Communion Sundays the youth of CFC help lead the worship service.

Pictured are snapshots of our helpers from our service on February 4.

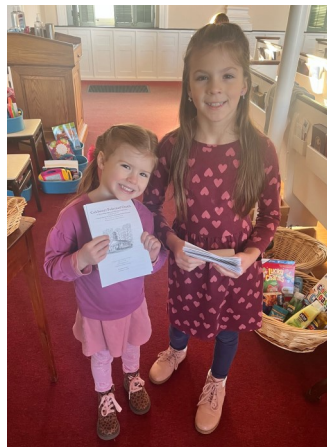


Photo Credits: Steve Bradstreet

# HOLY WEEK



## **PALM SUNDAY, MARCH 24**

9 AM Worship Service  
Palm Sunday Processional  
10 AM Pancake Breakfast



## **MAUNDY THURSDAY, MARCH 28**

7 PM Worship Service  
*The Last Supper*  
We will contemplate the last night  
Jesus spent with his disciples.  
Communion will be served.



## **GOOD FRIDAY, MARCH 29**

12 PM Worship Service  
*Stations of the Cross*  
We will walk throughout the  
Sanctuary from station to station as  
we contemplate the seven last words  
Jesus spoke from the cross.



## **EASTER SUNDAY, MARCH 31**

6:15 AM Sunrise Service at Lake Hayward  
9 AM Worship Service w/Communion  
We will joyfully celebrate the  
resurrection of Jesus Christ together  
and Communion will be served at  
our service in the sanctuary.  
10 AM Easter Egg Hunt

# IN OUR PRAYERS

## For those who are ill or recovering:

**Lydia Blacker**

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

**Sadie Dombrowski**

**John Dooley**

**Elizabeth Emory**

**Terry Howard, Sr**

**Eleanor Keller**

**Kathy Landry**

**John McGuire** (*Nicole Hosford's brother in law*)

**Jacquelin Mildrum** (*Joyce Johnson's mother*)

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

**Teri Sawchuk**

**Ginny Soucie** (*Suzanne Cramer's friend*)

**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



- 03/02 Lydia Blacker
- 03/04 Paul Goodwin
- 03/05 Ashlyn Barrows
- 03/07 Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Caronna  
Neill Ostrout  
Mary Tomasi
- 03/08 Laura Marvin  
Ben Simonds
- 03/10 Gary Riddell
- 03/17 Nicole Hosford  
Michele Howard
- 03/18 Kaytlyn Howard
- 03/20 Laurie Gerundo
- 03/25 Anora De Leon Nadeau
- 03/27 Susan Sanford
- 03/29 Nels Frantzen
- 03/31 Megan Floyd



- 03/06 Joyce & John Johnson
- 03/21 BethAnn & Michael Voiland
- 03/24 Laurie & Tom Gerundo

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

... Thank you to Tom St. Louis for installing the security cameras.  
 ... Thank you to Rev. Jack Shackles and Kristina Lenda for covering for Pastor Lauren and Nicole while they were away on the Discipleship Retreat at Silver Lake.  
 ... Thank you to Steve Bradstreet, Deborah Howard, and Tom St. Louis for their work on the church finances.  
 ... Thank you to Tom St. Louis for preparing the 2024 Church Budget.  
 ... Thank you to Mark Bosse and Dick Paige for running the Annual Meeting.  
 ... Thank you to Richard Hosford for donating new lights for the pulpit. Thank you to Richard Hosford and Neill Ostrout for hanging the lights.  
 ... Thank you to Tracy Gale for securing the location at Lake Hayward for the Easter Sunrise Service.  
 ... Thank you to Sam Ringuette for delivering the cans of soup that were collected for the Souper Bowl to the Colchester Food Bank.  
 ... Thank you to Mark Bosse for submitting the security grant application.  
 ... Thank you to Susan Sanford, Cheryl Letendre, and Suzanne Cramer for all of their hard work on the Gifts & Leadership Team.

**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.**

To my CFC Family,

Thank you all so much for the flowers, cards, and continued prayers while I am recovering.

Love, Lydia



## Giving Update

	January	Year to Date
<b>Total Pledged</b>	\$13,935	
<b>Total Received</b>	\$13,419	
<b>Difference</b>	\$516	
<b>Percent Received</b>	96%	

# LENTEN COLLECTION

## HELPING HARTFORD'S HOMELESS

Throughout Lent, we will be collecting items to go into hygiene kits to support Officer Barrett and help the homeless population in Hartford.

We received a generous donation of hand soaps, shampoo, and conditioner. Items needed include:

- Toothbrushes
- Toothpaste
- Dental Floss
- Hand Sanitizer
- Face Cloths
- Sanitary Napkins
- Deodorant
- Disposable Razors
- Band-Aids
- Ziplock bags (*gallon size*)



In addition to hygiene items, we are also looking for donations of gift cards in the amount of \$5 to Dunkin & McDonald's as well as **All Day** bus passes (\$3.50).

Bus passes can be purchased here: <https://buypasses.storesecured.com/>.

ALL youth are invited to help pack hygiene kits on March 24th during our Sunday School time. Youth will make a special snack and stay to pack the kits.

**Please note:** this event is likely to run longer than our normal Sunday School time. Any questions, please reach out to Nicole.



# SUNDAY SCHOOL

## VBS PLANNING TEAM

We are looking for help in Music, Snacks, Bible Stories, and folks to walk groups around.

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 **April 7** or contact Nicole.



# EGG FILLINGS NEEDED

**On Easter Sunday, following the 9 AM worship service, the children of CFC are invited to participate in our annual Easter Egg Hunt!**

**We have plenty of eggs but are in need of some fun things to fill the eggs with. Items can be candy, erasers, stickers... whatever can fit inside of an egg!**

**Any help would be greatly appreciated. Items can be dropped off in the sanctuary or brought to the church office by March 24th.**

**Thank you! ~ Nicole**



# EASTER FLOWER SALE



## Easter Flower Sale

Easter flowers are for sale through **March 17**. Please use this form and return in the collection plate. Or email Amy Domeika \_\_\_\_\_ with the order information.

Delivery after Easter by Church Life is available! Just let us know!  
Bulbs can be replanted. Order form below.

If paying by check, please make payable to Colchester Federated Church and mail to 60 South Main Street, Colchester, CT 06415.  
Venmo is also accepted

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone/Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Pick-up *after Easter Service* \_\_\_\_\_ or Deliver to: \_\_\_\_\_

Flower	Quantity	Price	Total	Pick Up or Donate?	Dedication
Lily		\$16			
Daffodil		\$11			
Tulip		\$11			
Hyacinth		\$11			



# SNAPSHOTS AROUND CFC

## SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY THANK YOU!

Sam Ringuette picked up and delivered the cans to the Colchester Food Bank on. Here are the final results:

49ers = 87

Chiefs = 100

I Don't Cares = 108

**Total of 295 cans of soup!!**

It looks like the "I Don't Cares" eeked out a win. But most importantly, thank you to our generous congregation for donating and helping folks in Colchester who may be facing food insecurity. Way to go Team CFC!!



## THANK YOU!

Several years ago, when our sanctuary got a fresh coat of paint, the rope lights in the pulpit area were removed. Since then, we have been using old (and possibly not the safest) desk lamps to light up the area. We received a generous donation from the Hosfords to replace the rope lights with new, energy efficient (and color changing!) lights!

Thanks to the efforts of Richard Hosford and Neill Ostrout, the pulpit is once again lit up!



# ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Devra [REDACTED]

## You are invited to join us

The CORE Commission is hosting a conversation with Colchester Youth, grades 9 - 12. The purpose is to hear the youth's perspective on what is happening in Colchester and to collect their thoughts and ideas.

Parents/guardians are welcome to participate in a separate discussion. CORE members will lead both youth and parent discussions. The goal is for CORE members to use the information gathered to identify areas of strength and improvements for our youth in Colchester.

5-March-24

Colchester Federated  
Church

6:30-8:00 PM

RSVP to Nancy Nelson  
[REDACTED]

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## *Easter Egg Hunt*

**FOLLOWING THE 9 AM WORSHIP SERVICE**



**SUNDAY, MARCH 31**

**COLCHESTER FEDERATED CHURCH  
60 MAIN ST, COLCHESTER, CT**

# Join the Choir

**Have you thought about joining our wonderful CFC choir?  
Now is a great time to give it a try!**

**No experience necessary! It's a wonderful way to participate  
in the worship service and praise God through music.**

**Please see Kim Lewis if you'd like to give it a try or if you  
need more information or have any questions.**



# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## SPRING IN BLOOM VENDOR FAIR

Before you know it, spring will be here and so will our Annual Spring in Bloom Market! CFC's spring fair, showcasing local goods, creative gifts, crafts and more, will be on May 4th from 10-2pm.

If you would like a table, or know someone who would, please let us know as soon as possible. Spaces are already filling up! Please reach out to Renee Misbach.

Thank you so much!



## Spring in Bloom Vendor Fair

Saturday, May 4th 10 AM - 2 PM

Crafters - Vendors - Upscale Tag Sale  
Farmer's Market - Raffle - Bake Sale

Colchester Federated Church  
60 Main St, Colchester CT

If you would like to be a vendor, please contact Renee at

# CHURCH CALENDAR

## MARCH 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>31 <i>Easter</i></b> 6:15 AM Sunrise Service at Lake Hayward 9 AM Worship Service (S) 10 AM Easter Egg Hunt 10:15 AM Prayer Circle (Lng)					<b>1</b> 12 PM AA (Lib) 6 PM Set-Up for Powder Puff Derby (G)	<b>2</b> 9:30 AM AA (SR) 9:30 AM Al-Anon (JR/Lib) 1:00 Powder Puff Derby (G)
<b>3</b> 9 AM Worship Service (S) 11:15 AM Capital Campaign Meeting (JR) 12 PM Discipleship (Lng) 1:30 PM Crafting & Fellowship (SR) 3 PM Pickleball (G) 7 PM Boy Scouts Committee Meeting (SR) Kim Lewis Off	<b>4</b> 12 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) 6:30 PM CORE (SR)	<b>6</b> 10 AM My Brother's Keeper (JR) 12 PM AA (Lib) 6 PM Girl Scouts #63223 (JR) 7:30 PM AA (Lib)	<b>7</b> 10 AM AA (Lib) 6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal (S)	<b>8</b> 12 PM AA (Lib) 6:30 PM Private Event (G)	<b>9</b> 9:30 AM AA (SR) 9:30 AM Al-Anon (JR/Lib)
<b>10 <i>Daylight Savings</i></b> 9 AM Worship Service (S) 3 PM Pickleball (G) 	<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)	<b>14</b> 10 AM AA (Lib) 5:30 PM Girl Scout #63000 (JR) 6 PM Parks & Rec: Pickleball (G) 6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal (S) 8 PM Private Event (G)	<b>15</b> 12 PM AA (Lib) 6:30 PM Private Event (G)	<b>16</b> 9:30 AM AA (SR) 9:30 AM Al-Anon (JR/Lib) 12 PM Girl Scout Troop #63223 (JR)
				Pastor Lauren Vacation		
<b>17</b>  9 AM Worship Service (S) 10:15 AM Prayer Circle (Lng) 11 AM GS Drive Thru Cookie Booth (O) 12 PM Discipleship (Lng) 3 PM Pickleball (G) Pastor Lauren Vacation Dave Hock Off	<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 <i>Crier Deadline</i></b> 10 AM My Brother's Keeper (JR) 12 PM AA (Lib) 6 PM Girl Scouts #63223 (JR) 7:30 PM AA (Lib)	<b>21</b> 10 AM AA (Lib) 5:30 PM Girl Scout #63000 (JR) 6 PM Parks & Rec: Pickleball (G) 6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal (S) 8 PM Private Event (G)	<b>22</b> 12 PM AA (Lib) 6:30 PM Private Event (G)	<b>23</b> 9:30 AM AA (SR) 9:30 AM Al-Anon (JR/Lib) 11 AM GS Drive Thru Cookie Booth (O)
<b>24 <i>Palm Sunday</i></b> 9 AM Worship Service (S) 10 AM Pancake Breakfast (K/SR) 3 PM Pickleball (G)	<b>25</b> 12 PM AA (Lib) 7 PM Boy Scouts (JR/SR/G) 7:30 PM AA (Lib)	<b>26</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) 7:30 PM AA (Lib)	<b>28 <i>Maundy Thursday</i></b> 10 AM AA (Lib) 5:30 PM Girl Scout #63000 (JR) 6 PM Parks & Rec: Pickleball (G) 7 PM Maundy Thursday Service (S) 8 PM Choir Rehearsal (S) 8 PM Private Event (G)	<b>29 <i>Good Friday</i></b> 12 PM AA (Lib) 12 PM Good Friday Service (S) 6:30 PM Private Event (G)	<b>30</b> 9:30 AM AA (SR) 9:30 AM Al-Anon (JR/Lib)

## Colchester Federated Church

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*Happy Easter!*

