

# The Joy of Sharing

For generations, the First Congregational church on Washington Green has always taken seriously and cheerfully our Christian responsibility to those who are in need, whether they live nearby or in the far corners of the Earth.

Through our many missions, spiritual and charitable, we enjoy helping those who are less fortunate in many ways. Our church makes regular commitments, financial and hands-on, to many local efforts to improve the lives of the less fortunate.

Here are some volunteer opportunities we enjoy participating in, and we encourage others to join us:

- Periodically, we assemble **School Kits and Hygiene Kits** for distribution through **Church World Services (CWS)**. School kits give children in impoverished communities and refugee camps the basic tools for learning. Hygiene kits make all the difference between health and sickness for struggling families in many circumstances throughout the world.
- Every fifth Thursday (about five times a year) a group of us volunteer to cook and serve meals at **Loaves and Fishes of New Milford**. Volunteering involves donating food items or helping serve the meal.
- Throughout the year we collect and donate non-perishable food items to the **New Milford Food Bank**, managed by New Milford Social Services, which offers a weekly drop-in food program. Our shopping cart is located in the hallway near the main entrance to our Parish House. A list of items needed is available near the cart. Items can be dropped off any time the building is open.
- **An annual Coat drive** (in October), to provide warm clothes for the homeless through **Church Street Eats**, a ministry of Christ Church Cathedral (Episcopal) in Hartford. A collection box is located in the Parish House coat closet. You may drop off any time the building is open.
- Every November, two Saturdays before Thanksgiving, we hold our annual **Harvest Dinner**. This dinner is a great community social event with delicious food cooked with love and laughter but it is foremost a fundraiser for local charities. These vary from year to year but have included food and fuel bank organizations, Friends in Service to Humanity (FISH) in Torrington, etc.
- **Annual Christmas wreath sale** (in November) to benefit **Susan B Anthony Project** in Torrington. SBA provides crisis and support services for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. All services are confidential, free, and available 24/7.
- At Christmas time some of us particularly enjoy volunteering to help the **Salvation Army** in Waterbury with the **Angel Tree Project, providing toys and other gifts for children of families in need**. If you wish to sponsor a child with a gift, please contact us by early November or stop by and pick a tag off the tree and sign the tag log. More details will be available at that time.
- Also at Christmas, we have supported the **Winchester YMCA Shelter in Winsted** by hosting a **Christmas party** for any families with children currently staying at the shelter. Annually, we also provide funds for upkeep and maintenance of one of the family shelter rooms.
- **New Milford Homeless Shelter** - During the colder months, The New Milford Homeless Shelter provides a safe, warm place to sleep for those in need of it. Some of us volunteer to sleep over, which is an essential element of the program, and more enjoyable than it sounds. If you are interested in helping out there, please contact Rufus at (860) 592-0142 for details.  
New Milford Homeless Shelter Coalition, Inc., PO Box 1016, New Milford, CT 06776
- **Along with many in our Washington community, our members participate in the Judea Garden**. Find out more about how you can help by going to [www.SteepRockAssoc.org/Judea-Garden/](http://www.SteepRockAssoc.org/Judea-Garden/)

Part of our members' regular donations to the church also goes to support various missions, both local and global, with annual monetary contributions. For a more complete list of the organizations we support, with labor or financially, but always with love and prayer, see the back side of this document.

---

For more information contact our church office: (860) 868-0569, [admin@firstchurchwashingtonct.org](mailto:admin@firstchurchwashingtonct.org)  
Missions Chairs: Annie Baur and John Turner

## Full List of Missions We Support

- Assoc. of Religions Communities (ARC)** – ARC facilitates interfaith cooperation and other partnerships to alleviate the causes of violence, suffering and hatred while advancing peace, justice and human dignity.
- Back Bay Mission** - A community ministry of the United Church of Christ, the Back Bay Mission is located in Biloxi, Mississippi and serves the Mississippi Gulf Coast and the wider church community by faithful witness for social justice and compassionate service to the poor and marginalized.
- Bread for the World** - Bread for the World is a collective Christian voice urging our nation's decisions makers to end hunger at home and abroad. Moved by God's grace in Jesus Christ, we advocate for a world without hunger.
- Church World Service** - CWS has worked for seven decades with one goal: building a world where there is enough for all. They affirm the power of individuals and communities to take ownership of their future. They meet them right where they are, helping them create solutions they can maintain – and build on. That means a refugee family who is able to start a new life. Or someone rebuilding after disaster finds safety with dignity.
- Friends In Service to Humanity (FISH)** - The mission of FISHNWCT; *Friends in Service to Humanity* of Northwestern CT is to meet the most basic of human needs: food, shelter and hope.
- Greater Waterbury Interfaith Mission** – Their mission is to help people in need. They provide a meal 6 days a week, emergency food and supplementary groceries, referrals and assistance to access SNAP, SSI, Healthcare, shelter, and Veterans Assistance.
- Greenwoods Counseling Referrals** – Greenwoods is committed to helping individuals, families, children and the elderly get access to fast, confidential referrals to professional counseling and medical help. They also offer financial help for counseling.
- Habitat for Humanity** - Their vision is a world where everyone has a decent place to live and their mission is to put God's love into action by bringing people together to build homes, communities and hope.
- Hopital Albert Schweitzer, Haiti** – Their mission is to collaborate with the people of the Artibonite Valley in Haiti as they strive to improve their health and quality of life.
- Judea Garden c/o Steep Rock Association** – Providing food for neighbors in need.
- Loaves & Fishes** - Open 365 days per year, Loaves & Fishes of New Milford provides a hot meal every day for those in need.
- Meals on Wheels** - Providing seniors with well-balanced and tasty meals. It is our goal to reduce loneliness through socialization and provide volunteer opportunities and camaraderie in a congregate setting. Delivery is available for those who cannot attend one of the congregate settings.
- New Milford Food Bank** – Offers a weekly drop-in food program for those who qualify.
- Operation Fuel** – Providing qualifying residents of Connecticut with year-round energy assistance.
- Our Church's Wider Mission through United Church of Christ** - Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM) Basic Support and Special Support provide funding for the work of UCC Connecticut and National ministries. OCWM changes lives by strengthening our ecumenical relationships and global partnerships, by imagining and embodying a better world through prophetic witness and work, and by providing resources and programs to nurture the vitality of our United Church of Christ congregations.
- UCC Special Offerings (One Great Hour of Sharing and Neighbors in Need)** – Provide assistance to ecumenical organizations in the US and throughout the world to address issues of justice and peace, poverty and refugee support, disaster relief and sustainable development.
- Salvation Army** – Providing gifts for children in need in greater Waterbury.
- Silver Lake Conference Center** - A mission of the CT United Church of Christ is a place where young people experience nature, make new friends, and explore their faith.
- Simply Smiles** - Simply Smiles works to create smiles on the faces of impoverished children. Just as important as food, clothing, shelter, and education is the emphasis we place on developing memories of happiness and joy for those in our care.
- Susan B. Anthony Project** - Providing crisis and support services for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. All services are confidential, free, and available 24/7.
- Washington Community Fund** – Helping community members in need with food and emergency fuel assistance.
- Winchester YMCA Emergency Shelter** – Their six rooms, with a combined 17 available beds, offer a short-term respite for families, couples and individuals suffering through difficult times.

---

For more information contact our church office: (860) 868-0569, [admin@firstchurchwashingtonct.org](mailto:admin@firstchurchwashingtonct.org)  
Missions Chairs: Annie Baur and John Turner