

**PLANTSVILLE
CONGREGATIONAL UCC**

May 2024

Steeple Notes

“O sing to the Lord a new song,
for he has done marvelous
things.”

Psalm 98:1a



**Plantsville Congregational Church
United Church of Christ**

109 Church Street,
Plantsville, CT 06479

www.plantsvilleucc.org

(860) 628-5595

churchoffice@plantsvilleucc.org

Rev. Jane Willan, Minister
Marilyn Cannata, *Music Director*
Jill Battaglia, *Office Administrator*



**The Church Office is open
Monday through Friday
9am to 1pm**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<div style="background-color: #e91e63; color: white; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;">May</div>			1 5:30PM CE 6:30PM KnitWits	2 6:30PM Bell Choir 7:00PM Al-Anon 7:30PM Vocal Choir	3 6:00PM Mystery Dinner Play	4 6:00PM Mystery Dinner Play
5 10:00AM Worship with Holy Communion 3:00PM Mystery Dinner Play	6 12:30PM Knitting 6:30PM Bible Study	7 6:30PM CA 7:00PM Deacons	8 6:30PM KnitWits	9 6:30PM Bell Choir 7:00PM Al-Anon 7:30PM Vocal Choir	10	11
12 10:00AM Worship 11:15AM Music Committee	13 12:30PM Knitting 6:30PM Bible Study	14 7:00PM Trustees	15 6:30PM KnitWits	16 6:30PM Bell Choir 7:00PM Al-Anon 7:30PM Vocal Choir	<div style="border: 1px solid black; background-color: #fff9c4; padding: 10px; display: inline-block;"> Please Note: Pastor Jane will be away May 14th-18th. For Pastoral Care emergencies in her absence please contact the office or Head Deacon Diane Larivee. </div>	
19 10:00AM Hybrid Worship * Last Day of Sunday School	20 12:30PM Knitting 5:00PM Fair Meeting 6:30PM Bible Study	21	22 6:30PM KnitWits 7:00PM Council	23 6:30PM Bell Choir 7:00PM Al-Anon 7:30PM Vocal Choir	24	25
26 10:00AM Worship	27 12:30PM Knitting 6:30PM Bible Study	28	29	30 6:30PM Bell Choir 7:00PM Al-Anon 7:30PM Vocal Choir	31	

A Note from Reverend Jane

The moment I stepped into the Barnes Museum, it was as if I had been transported back in time. The air was filled with the delicate aroma of freshly brewed tea, mingling with the soft murmur of conversation and the gentle clinking of china. The Victorian Tea was in full swing, and everywhere I looked, there were ladies dressed in their finest, sipping tea from delicate cups and savoring the delectable treats laid out before them. I adjusted my hat and smoothed my gloves, feeling a bit like a character from a Jane Austen novel as I joined the festivities.

As I sat at a table with a group of lovely ladies, I was struck by the warm and welcoming atmosphere. Conversation flowed easily, and laughter rang out as we shared stories and bonded over our shared love of all things vintage. It was a reminder of the power of community and the joy that can be found in coming together with like-minded individuals.

The Barnes Museum provided the perfect backdrop for this enchanting event, with its rich history and carefully curated exhibits. The museum, for those who aren't familiar with it, is a charming historic house located in the center of town. It occupies a beautifully preserved 1836 homestead that once belonged to the Bradley/Barnes family.

I had decided to embrace the spirit of the occasion by wearing a vintage 1950's dress, complete with a hat and gloves. It was great fun to wear this "June Cleaver" ensemble and feel a connection to a different time period. Everyone dressed for the occasion and it seemed to add to the overall festive atmosphere of the event.

As I sat there enjoying my tea and the delicious treats that were served, I was struck by the importance of community gatherings like this one. In a world that can sometimes feel isolating and fast-paced, it's so nice to slow down and connect with others who share similar interests.

I left the Victorian Tea feeling a sense of warmth and belonging, and I'm grateful to the Barnes Museum for hosting such a lovely event and to Marilyn Swain for inviting me. It's a reminder to me to embrace more opportunities to engage with my community and to appreciate the simple pleasures in life.

If you have the chance to attend a similar event in our community, I highly recommend it. You might just find yourself feeling a little more connected to the people and places around you.

Until next time,

Rev. Jane



Fill the Truck

We had a wonderful response to our Fill the Truck Event to benefit Southington Community Services!
We collected 1,116 pounds of donations and \$180 in cash!



Celebrating Our Dedicated Christian Education Volunteers!

"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace."
– 1 Peter 4:10

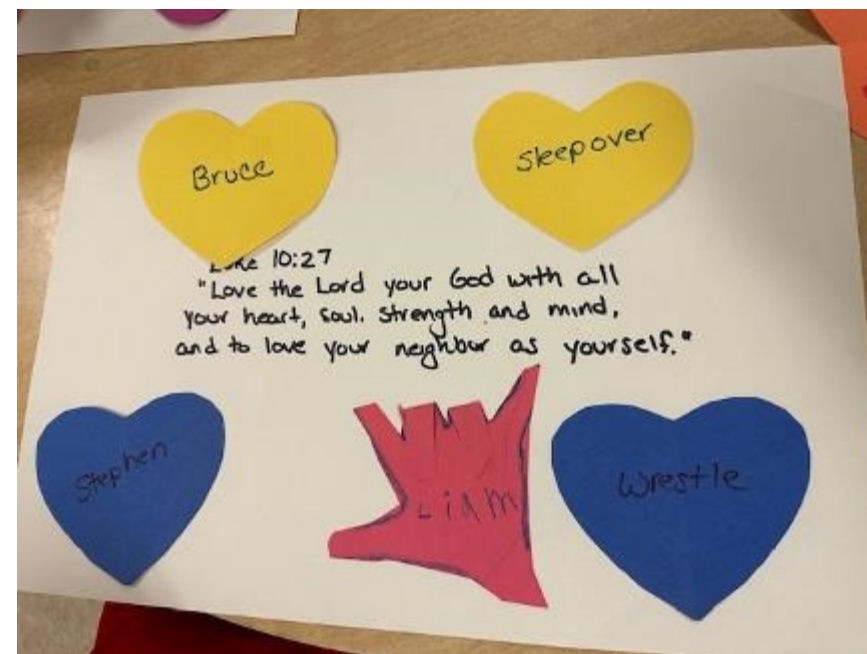
As we look back over the past year, we are deeply grateful for the heart and dedication of our Sunday School volunteers and the Christian Education Committee. Their commitment to nurturing the faith of our church children is not just a service; it is a ministry that shapes young hearts and minds towards Christ.

We honor each of them, not only for their time and talents but for their passion and love. May each of them feel as blessed in their giving as we have been by your service.

Thank you for another wonderful year of teaching and learning together in faith. Let us continue to support and uplift one another as we look forward to what God has in store for us in the coming year.

Special Thanks to:

Diane Pisko
Doris Lipetz
Linda Lindsay
Aubrey Quinlan
Christine Moses
Janet Larkin
Sue Graham



Church Happenings, Meetings, and Drives

Mystery Dinner Play

STILL A FEW TICKETS LEFT!

THE PCC PLAYERS

PRESENT:

MYSTERY AND
MAYHEM AT THE
MANSION!



Friday, May 3rd and Saturday May 4th:

Doors open at 6pm

Sunday, May 5th: Matinee

Doors open at 3pm.

Tickets are \$35.00 and include a delicious dinner and a show!

2024 Fair Meetings

Planning for the 2024 Ye Olde Country Fair Meetings have begun! Please join us for meetings on the 3rd Monday of the Month at 5pm on Zoom. Come share your thoughts and ideas!



Strengthen the Church

The CA Board will be having a “Strengthen The Church” offering on **May 19th**. Keep a look out for a letter going out to the congregation in early May.

One Great Hour of Sharing Recap

Thank you to all who supported the One Great Hour of Sharing Collection. This year we collected \$697!



Memorial Garden Bake Sale

The Memorial Garden Board is so grateful to our church family for supporting our recent bake sale. We made our biggest net profit ever of \$520! This will help us with the cost of flowers, mulch, and maintenance. Thank you so much!



Memorial Brick Fundraiser

The Memorial Garden Board is holding their Memorial Brick Fundraiser this year, **now through May 31st**. The cost for each Memorial Brick is \$50. There are order forms available every Sunday after church in Fellowship Hall as well as extra forms in the Memorial Garden mailbox in the church office. Any questions, please contact Wendy Fortin at (860) 621-6038.

Fruit Shelf

Our church's donations supply the fruit shelf for Southington Community Services. Please remember your items to support this ongoing mission. Items like **applesauce and fruit cups** are greatly appreciated!



Al-Anon at PCC

Al-Anon is a mutual support program for people whose lives have been affected by someone else's drinking. Meetings are confidential, and we do not disclose whom we see or what we hear at meetings to anyone. There are no dues or fees but we do pass a basket for voluntary contributions. Meetings are held at PCC **Thursday evenings at 7pm**.

Christian Education

Sunday School

Classes for children from Kindergarten to Grade 5 are offered in our Sunday School classroom following the Children's Sermon.



The Sunday School theme for May is Respect. Please note that Sunday school will conclude for this academic year on **Sunday, May 19th**. Sunday school classes will resume in the fall.

Youth Group News

Youth group will conclude in May with volunteer opportunities at the Mystery Dinner play. Sign ups are in fellowship hall or please reach out to Dave or Cindy Cayer.



Monday Night Bible Study

Join us for Monday Night Bible Study at 6:30pm on Monday evenings. These sessions will be offered hybrid, newcomers are always welcome! Please check the weekly email for the zoom link or contact the office.



From the Deacons

Your Bottles and Cans Help Make a Difference



2022



Over 42K plastic bottles, aluminum cans and glass bottles were recycled



2023

Our recycling efforts increased to over 44K items!

2024

We have started the year off with over 18K items redeemed



Helping Our Environment

Redemption helps keep plastic and glass waste out of the landfills

Financial benefits

Over \$5,000.00 raised for the Deacons fund and wider church missions

Many Thanks from the Deacons!

Updates from the Trustees

Building Repairs and Upkeep

Restoration of the two downstairs rooms continues. The asbestos abatement and drywall installation are complete. The new windows have been installed. The ceiling tiles are scheduled to be installed the week of April 29, 2024. The Trustees continue to request that no one go downstairs while the restoration work is underway.

The fence between the parking lot and the parsonage was damaged during the winter. The replacement parts have been purchased and the fence will be repaired on our workday.

Trustees are considering taking down the Pine trees along the corner of Church Street and Cowles Avenue. The Memorial Garden Board indicated that the trees limit the sunlight that the Memorial Garden receives and the pinecones and other detritus from the trees create a mess and makes more work for the Board. Several of the trees are dying or unhealthy and would need to be removed at some point in the near future.

A member asked whether the bell in the steeple would be able to ring again. A structural engineer checked the steeple six years ago and it is sound. He was unable to access the bell tower due to the condition of the ladder and floor. Reverend Jane is investigating grants that would help with restoration because it would probably be a costly endeavor. But it would be wonderful to hear the bell peal again!

Please let a Trustee know if you think something needs to be checked. Trustees: Linda LaForge, Tony Senatore, Dave Cayer, Doris Lipetz, Mark Case, Ken Bell, Dan Camillieri, Greg LaForge

Summer Office Hours

Starting Monday, June 17th the office will be open Monday-Thursday from 8:00am to 12:00pm and closed on Fridays. Summer hours will be in effect until Labor Day.



Parsonage

Orkin pest control was called in to inspect the parsonage because of the complaints of bugs – especially spiders. Upon inspection, it was determined that a large mouse population was in the house. The Trustees have treated for the mouse issue and will continue to monitor to see if those efforts have worked. If not, a professional will be engaged to combat the problem. The parsonage was treated for spiders and other critters.

As has always been the case, the parsonage basement continues to take water during rainstorms. After consideration, the Board has decided that we will have a basement waterproofing company look at it to see if there is anything that can be done to rectify the situation at a reasonable cost.

The Trustees will be soliciting quotes for the installation of a water softener/filtration system in the parsonage.

Online Giving Information

Increasingly, givers prefer to donate online, eliminating the need to deal with cash or checks. PCC's secure online giving portal for one-time or ongoing support of the church is easy to use and available [HERE](#).



Questions about giving online? Contact the church office!

Pastor Jane's Schedule

Office Hours:

Monday-Wednesday 9am-3pm

Thursdays 9am-12pm (I do my visits on Thursday afternoon).

Friday is my day off.

Please feel free to stop by the parsonage or my office anytime. I would love to see you!

~Rev. Jane