

CHURCH EVENTS FOR THE WEEK

Sunday - December 16 – Third Sunday in Advent
8:30 Worship, Rev. Linda Barnes preaching
10:00 Worship, Rev. Linda Barnes preaching
11:15 Junior Choir Rehearsal
11:45 Hand Chime Rehearsal
11:30 Senior High Youth Group

Monday - December 17
7:00 Boy Scouts (Stage)
7:30 AA Meeting
NO Saving Jesus DVD study

Tuesday - December 18
6:30 Discipleship
7:00 Diaconate (Lounge)

Wednesday-December 19
10:00 My Brother's Keeper (Jerusalem)
7:00 Handbell Rehearsal
7:30 AA Step Meeting

Thursday - December 20
10:00 AA Meeting
7:00 Choir Rehearsal

Friday - December 21
6:00 Jr. High Youth Group – Tacos & Movies (Gym/Lounge)

Saturday - December 22 9:15 AA and Al-Anon

Sunday - December 23 – Fourth Sunday in Advent
--- *No Sunday School* ---
8:30 Worship, Rev. Linda Barnes preaching
10:00 Family Worship, Rev. Linda Barnes preaching
11:15 Junior Choir Rehearsal
11:45 Hand Chime Rehearsal



OFFICE HOURS You may reach Rev. Barnes or the church administrative assistant (Tom Evans) at the church office at 537-5189. Office hours are Monday through Thursday from 10:30 am – 3:30 pm. Church office email is colchesterfederate@sbcglobal.net. (note: no second “d”). Email for Rev. Linda Barnes is Lubarnes6@sbcglobal.net . **Bulletin deadline is Tuesday noon** each week. **February Crier deadline is January 22nd**. (Earlier submissions would be GREATLY appreciated.)

NEW WEB SITE ONLINE!!!! – ColchesterFederatedChurch.org

Please take a look at our new web site that Laurie Schaeffer has worked so diligently on. There is still more information to be put out there, but it is a great reflection of the all the things going on in our church and the work that all of you do. Some highlights are the weekly bulletins and monthly Crier in PDF format to view, print or download. The monthly calendar is there also in a very easy to navigate format. Check out all the other things there as well. If you have comments, please direct them to the office.

MANY THANKS TO ALL WHO HAVE PLEDGED!

To date, we have received 66 pledging units, for a total of \$119,110. If you haven't returned your pledge card and "time and talent" card, we would appreciate it if you could return them in the offering plate or to the church office as soon as possible. The 2008 budget is currently being planned! Extra pledge packets are available in the narthex and office if you need them. In this holiday season, we are especially appreciative of all the time, talent and treasure that all have shared throughout the year with us. For more information, please contact Steve Bradstreet (Assistant Treasurer) or Diane Capasso. The Pledge Campaign Planning Committee

ADULT EDUCATION SERIES

Our 12 week “Saving Jesus” DVD series takes a break for the holidays and resumes with Session #11 on January 7th at 6:30. We'll do Session #12 on January 14th and then discuss and compare our UCC and ABC Statements of Faith to some of the points raised in the series on January 21st and January 28th.

Next on the agenda is a book study to start in February. We have a few ideas, but we are always happy to have others. If you have some suggestions, please let Rev. Linda or Lori Hall know.

ALTERNATE HOLIDAY MARKET



December 16th and 23rd-
after the 10 am service
narthex after the 8:30
have alternative gifts,
dollars, available from **Church World Services, Habitat for Humanity, and the Heifer Project.** These gifts can change lives for the better. We appreciate all your help and generosity. Thank you.



CHURCH WORLD SERVICE
Best Gift Catalog



Habitat for Humanity®

Are you wondering what the perfect gift is for someone who is hard to buy for or doesn't want anything? Are you looking for a gift that will help others? Stop by our Alternative Holiday Market at coffee hour and in the service. We will starting at five

SHOW US YOUR GOOD SIDE!

We currently have 46 of our 168 members signed up for photo appointments. If you haven't made your appointment yet, please do so before the holidays get more hectic and you forget. Three ways to sign-up:

1. **You can do it before you leave today!** Appointment sheets will be in the narthex following the 8:30 service and in the stage room following 10:00 worship.
2. You can also make your appointment online by going to: www.signup.olanmills.com. Use the church phone number (860-537-5189) or our contract number (25196) to log in and make your appointment.
3. Call the church office and schedule it with Tom.

Photo dates are: Friday, January 4th from 3 to 9pm, Saturday, January 5th from 10am to 5pm and Wednesday, January 9th from 3 to 9pm.

CEREAL, INSTANT POTATOES, RICE AND PASTA DISHES

This is a tough time of year for a lot of folks – trying to heat their homes and put food on the table. Please remember the food bank when you do your grocery shopping. Macaroni and cheese and those packet rice and pasta dishes are frequently on sale. Pick up a couple extra the next time you're in the store and drop them off at the church. A few extra items can make a big difference. Thank you so much for your support of those in need.

GIVE THE GIFT OF LIFE THIS HOLIDAY SEASON – BLOOD DRIVE

On Monday, December 17th the Colchester Federated Church's Mission of Wellness will host a Blood Drive in the Stage room from 1:30 pm to 6:15 pm. As most of you know during the winter and holiday season the demand for blood by local hospitals is great. Everyone who gives blood that day will be entered into a drawing for **Patriots Football Game tickets**. Please take this opportunity to give blood and help others.

One can register to give blood by calling 1-800-448-3543 or go on line at www.bloodct.org.

We need Volunteers and baked goods for that day. Please call Donna at 367-9238 or Cheryl Letendre at 537-6516 if you can help.

“WALK TO BETHLEHEM” – Almost there!!!!

Currently we have “walked” 5705 miles. We're almost there!!!!.

EPIPHANY DINNER CELEBRATION

The New London Association of the Connecticut Conference, United Church of Christ is hosting an Epiphany dinner celebration, “the gift of the magi”, Sunday, January 6, 2008, at 1:30 pm at Mona Lisa's Restaurant, 0181 West Town Street, Norwich, CT. All New London Association Clergy and Congregation Members are welcome! Come and Share Fellowship with Sister Churches in the Association! Enjoy a Fine Meal!

Cost: \$25 per person
(includes tax, tip and room fee)
Payable in Advance.

Buffet Menu to include: Cheese and Cracker Tray, Tossed Garden Salad, Dinner Rolls and Butter, Chicken Marsala, Stuffed Sole with Lobster Newburg Sauce, Sliced Roast Beef, Penne with Pink Vodka Sauce, Meatballs with Italian Red Sauce, Homemade Red Mashed Potatoes, Green Bean Medley with Baby Carrots, Dessert, Coffee and Tea.

Call Rev. Barnes or the Church Office before Dec. 30th if you would like to go.

**** In Appreciation ****

Greeting today is Patty Sebring. Patty has been a resident of Colchester for 21 years. She has served the Colchester Federated Church as a mentor of the Discipleship class, as a member of Gifts and Leadership, a member of the Search Committee and is on the Personnel Committee. She is an accountant with Imagineers – a property management company. She enjoys Jazzercise and spending time with her two dogs.

The Ushers today are Dana Bradstreet (8:30) and John Dooley and Gordon Archambault (10:00).

The flowers on the altar today are for two occasions:

- In honor of Dana and Bea Bradstreet's 50th wedding anniversary.
- Given by Ingrid Hearn (the woman whose house the mission trip worked on) in memory of her brother, Kerry Hearn and her parents, Louis and Verna Mae Hearn.



Ingrid & Fred

The heartfelt Christmas tree

There is a special Christmas tree
That lives within the heart.
It isn't pine, and can't be bought
At any store or mart.

Each branch holds some fond memory
Of joyful Christmas cheer,
Reminding us of those we love
And always will hold dear.

The gifts beneath this Christmas tree
Are stacked up very high
With kindly deeds of thoughtfulness
That one could never buy.

The Heartfelt Christmas tree expands
Through every passing year
With lovely gifts and blessings
Having come from far and near.

Atop this tree a star shines bright,
While angels sing God's praise;
Rejoice! The Christ-child's Love is shared,
And blesses ALL our days.

—Peggy Ferrell

