

**PLANTSVILLE
CONGREGATIONAL UCC**

April 2026

Steeple Notes

*Jesus came and stood
among them and
said, "Peace be with
you."*

~John 20:19



**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, Programming and Operations



**Church Office Hours:
Office Hours
Mon-Fri 9am to 1pm**



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
April			1 1:00PM Knitting 6:30PM Knitwits 6:30PM Bell Choir 7:30PM Vocal Choir	2 10:00AM Al-Anon 6:00PM Coloring 7:00PM Maundy Thursday Service	3 7:00PM Play Rehearsal 3:00PM— 6:00PM Chalk Walk	4 10:30AM Play Rehearsal
	Fellowship Hall Rental for Taichi classes Mon-Thurs 5pm-9:00pm & Saturday Mornings 9am-11am.					
5 10:00AM Easter Sunday Worship Service with Holy Communion †	6 Office Closed 8:30AM Monday Movers Walking Group	7 6:15PM CA 7:00PM Deacons	8 1:00PM Knitting 6:30PM Knitwits No Choir Rehearsal	9 10:00AM Al-Anon 6:00PM Coloring	10 7:00PM Play Rehearsal	11 10:30AM Play Rehearsal 6:00PM Fellowship Hall Rental
12 10:00AM Worship Service	13 8:30AM Monday Movers Walking Group	14 7:00PM Trustees	15 1:00PM Knitting 6:00PM C.E. 6:30PM Knitwits 6:30PM Bell Choir 7:00PM Council 7:30PM Vocal Choir	16 10:00AM Al-Anon 6:00PM Coloring	17 9:00AM Quilts of Valor 7:00PM Play Rehearsal	18 10:30AM Play Rehearsal
19 10:00AM Worship Service	20 8:30AM Monday Movers Walking Group 5:00PM Fair Meeting	21	22 1:00PM Knitting 6:30PM Knitwits 6:30PM Bell Choir 7:30PM Vocal Choir	23 10:00AM Al-Anon 6:00PM Coloring 6:30PM Bell Choir 7:30PM Vocal Choir	24 7:00PM Play Rehearsal	25 10:30AM Play Rehearsal 10AM Free Outdoor Tai Chi Class 6:00PM Fellowship Hall Rental
26 10:00AM Worship Service	27 8:30AM Monday Movers Walking Group	28	29 6:30PM Bell Choir 7:30PM Vocal Choir	30		

The Week Everything Goes Wrong

We know how it ends. That's the problem.

When you know the ending, you stop paying attention to the middle. You skim from palms to lilies, from Hosanna to Alleluia, like a reader who flips to the last chapter and calls it a finished book. But Holy Week isn't a highlight reel. It's a slow unraveling.

Sunday looks like momentum. Crowd. Noise. Cloaks on the road. If you freeze the frame, it looks like a win. The same crowd, however, will not hold—which is something they probably should have mentioned in the brochure.

Monday, Jesus walks into the temple and starts overturning furniture. This is not, historically, how you build a broad coalition.

Tuesday, it's open conflict. Lines drawn. Debates in public. Whatever goodwill existed is gone.

Wednesday, a quiet conversation in a back room. Judas says yes. Nothing looks different. Everything has changed. Most things fall apart this way—not with a dramatic scene, but with a small, private decision nobody else hears.

Thursday, dinner. Bread. Wine. Jesus talks like someone who is leaving, and the disciples nod along the way you do when you're not quite following but don't want to ask.

Friday needs no summary.

Saturday is just silence and the particular misery of replaying everything and wondering where it went wrong.

We want to skip this week. We want to go straight from palms to lilies, from the good part to the better part. But the middle is where we actually live—in the unraveling, in the waiting, in the part of the story where the outcome isn't clear yet. What if the unraveling isn't the end of the story? What if it's just the middle?

Come walk through it with us. Maundy Thursday is where Holy Week turns—it's the last thing we do together before Easter morning, and it matters more than it gets credit for. We'd love to see you there. Thursday, 7:00 PM.

~ Rev. Jane



Moderator Moment

We have some great things coming ahead for Church Council. We are still looking for a Clerk on the Church Council and then we will have a full Council. Yay!

If you are interested in joining please come see me.

What do you love about Plantsville UCC? I will be having a series called Cozy Corner Chats. They will take place starting in late May/early June. I will be having small groups of about 10-15 people come to church and have a potluck get together. We will be exploring what you love about our church community. Please join me for a Saturday afternoon Cozy Corner Chat with some other members.

If you are available and free, please let Jill know. We will have a signup in the office for the dates we have available.

Look forward to some new collaborations and new things coming down the pipeline. I am excited for what we can and will accomplish.

~Taneta McCaw

**Melt the
ICE**

Only **LOVE** melts hate.

Chalk Walk
Friday, April 3 3-6pm
Plantsville Congregational United Church
109 Church St, Plantsville CT

While we chalk messages of
love for ALL people,
we will be collecting **FRUIT** for
Southington Community Services.

*Love
Kindness
Antiracism
Acceptance*

**Join us to
fan the flames!**

Suggested donation items:
•fruit cups •canned fruit
•applesauce •dried fruit
•fruit pouches

The Case of the Blue Suede Shoes



TICKETS
\$36

**DINNER &
A SHOW!**

PLANTSVILLE UCC
MYSTERY DINNER THEATER

FRIDAY MAY 1ST 6PM

SATURDAY MAY 2ND 6PM

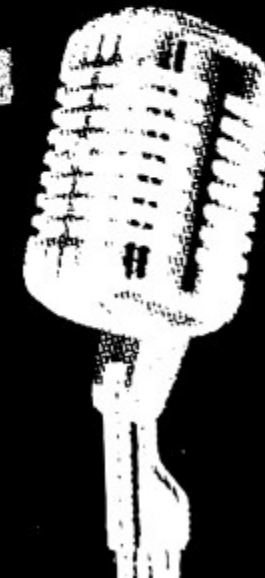
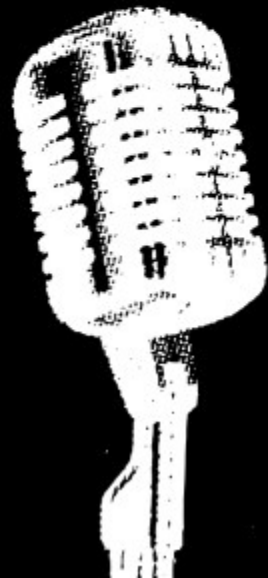
SUNDAY MAY 3RD 3PM

Plantsville Congregational Church

109 Church St Plantsville CT

For Tickets Call 860 628 5595 or

Email: Churchoffice@plantsvilleucc.org



Updates from Your Christian Action Board

Here's some announcements from our Christian Action Board:

On April 3rd, from 3:00-6:00, there will be a Chalking Event on the sidewalks next to our church!

It will be led by Caitlyn Gelfand. She asks that everyone who participates (or watches) to donate a can of fruit or two to benefit our fruit shelf at Southington Community Services. Please spread the word about this event- everyone is welcome. It should be so much fun!

Our Souper Bowl Sunday event was a huge success! 159 cans of soup and \$209.10 were donated to Bread For Life. They were so grateful. The Comfort Food Sale on February 23rd was a warm success! \$400 was donated to The Friends' Room here at our church. The Friends were beyond grateful and excited and sent 7 thank you notes to us!

Tickets for our dinner theater show, "The Case of the Blue Suede Shoes" are on sale! The tickets will be \$36. each and can be paid for by cash, check or credit card. The dates of the show are: May 1st and May 2nd (doors open at 6:00 pm) and May 3rd (doors open at 3:00 pm). It's going to be great!

The One Great Hour of Sharing event yielded \$673.57 Thank you so very much for your generosity for this worthwhile cause. Looking forward, we're looking to have another Fill The Truck event in May. Keep your eyes peeled for details closer to the event!

Our fruit shelf at Southington Community Services continues to be emptied almost daily. Thank you to everyone who has contributed to this and keep those fruit cans rolling on in!!

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.



Southington Community Services Operation Stay Warm Town Wide Winter Coat Drive

Plantsville Congregational Church is partnering with Southington Community Services (SCS) in sponsoring Operation Stay Warm. This program distributed 853 winter coats and accessories to the Southington Community in 2025.

During the month of April, a collection bin will be located in the Church for your donations of new or clean, gently used winter coats and accessories in both adult and children's sizes.

Thank you for your generosity!

For the Community ...



By the Community

Community Easter Egg Hunt

What an amazing turn out for the Easter Egg Hunt!!! Our Southington/Plantsville community was so very appreciative and all the children had a wonderful time. We would like to thank Jason's students, The Friends Room group, the CE team, the remarkably talented Jill and especially Sue for heading up this special event. The CE board will be providing lunch for Jason and his students and the entire Friends Room group. A special thank you to all the CE team members for your help! ~Rose Risser & Barb Mackay, CE Chairpersons.



Trustees Update

We are happy spring has arrived! In the weeks ahead keep a lookout for an announcement of a outdoor cleanup day to get our grounds in good shape.

The Friends Room will be installing a basketball hoop in the upper parking lot for their use and for anyone in our church community to use. They are also looking to start a vegetable garden this spring, if anyone is interested in lending a helping hand to the garden, please reach out to Jill.

We are already seeing a reduction in our electricity due to the new LED lighting installed. Another thanks to Shea Electric!

Dan Camilleri, Chairman Board of Trustees.

Memorial Garden Brick Sale

Beginning on Sunday March 1st-Sunday May 31st, the Memorial Garden Committee will be holding their Memorial Brick Fundraiser for members of the church to honor the memory of your loved one(s). Wendy Fortin (or a Memorial Garden Committee Representative) will be available every Sunday after church in Fellowship Hall to provide you with a brochure to fill out. The cost for purchasing each engraved brick is \$50.00. The details for filling out the information for your brick is included in the brochure, there are 15 characters per line and 3 lines available per brick. We accept personal checks or cash for this fundraiser. For your convenience, there will also be extra blank order form brochures in the Memorial Garden Committee mailbox in the Church office. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Wendy Fortin at (860)-621-6038.

World Tai Chi Day

Saturday April 25th is World Tai Chi Day! The Yin Yang Taijiquan Academy who meets at our church would like to invite everyone to a free outdoor class to commemorate the day. The class will be offered from 10am-11:30am and will be appropriate for all levels. Bring a friend and try Tai Chi!

Deacons Update

As times marches on, another Lenten Dinner series has ended. All three dinners were enjoyable and happily attended. The Board of Deacons would like to thank everyone for making them as success. The food was excellent and the fellowship we shared was outstanding. Happy Easter to all!

“For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me.” ~ Matthew 25:35



Greeters Needed!

Be a Friendly Face on Sunday Morning! ☐

We're looking for a few warm smiles to serve as **Greeters** on Sunday mornings!

Greeters welcome folks as they arrive, hand out bulletins, and assist with the offering. It's a simple but meaningful way to help set the tone for worship and make everyone feel at home.

The best part? It's not a weekly commitment — you'll be scheduled about once a month.

If you'd like to help create that welcoming first impression, please see **Lori Gensler or Cindy Cayer**. We'd love to have you on the team!