

**PLANTSVILLE
CONGREGATIONAL UCC**

January 2026

Steeple Notes

*“So that we, who were
the first to set our hope
on Christ, might live
for the praise of his
glory.”*

~Ephesians 1:12



**Plantsville Congregational Church
United Church of Christ**

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Plantsville, CT 06479

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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
	January			1 Happy New Year! Office Closed	2	3
4 10:00AM Worship Service with Holy Communion 11:00AM Investment Presentation	5 8:30AM Monday Movers Walking Group	6 6:15PM CA 7:00PM Deacons	7 1:00PM Knitting 6:30PM Knitwits 7:00PM Council Budget Meeting	8 10:00AM Al-Anon 6:00PM Coloring 6:30PM Bell Choir 7:30PM Vocal Choir	9 9:00AM Quilts of Valor	10
11 10:00AM Worship Service	12 8:30AM Monday Movers Walking Group	13 7:00PM Trustees	14 1:00PM Knitting 6:30PM Knitwits	15 10:00AM Al-Anon 6:00PM Coloring 6:30PM Bell Choir 7:30PM Vocal Choir	16	17
18 10:00AM Worship Service	19 MLK Day Office Closed 8:30AM Monday Movers Walking Group	20	21 1:00PM Knitting 6:30PM Knitwits 7:00PM Council	22 10:00AM Al-Anon 6:00PM Coloring 6:30PM Bell Choir 7:30PM Vocal Choir	23	24
25 10:00AM Worship Service	26 8:30AM Monday Movers Walking Group	27	28	29 10:00AM Al-Anon 6:00PM Coloring 6:30PM Bell Choir 7:30PM Vocal Choir	30	31

Following the Light—Even When It Leads Somewhere New

Epiphany is the moment in the Christmas story when the light stops being private and becomes public. A child born quietly in Bethlehem is revealed to the world—not first to kings or priests, but to travelers, outsiders, seekers who were simply paying attention.

The Magi did not set out looking for certainty. They followed a star they did not fully understand. It led them across borders, into danger, and finally into a small house where God was doing something new. Epiphany reminds us that faith often begins not with answers, but with curiosity—and with the courage to keep walking when the path is unclear.

This season asks us to notice where light is breaking into our own lives. Sometimes it appears as a moment of clarity. Sometimes as a nudge toward compassion. Sometimes as an invitation we hadn't planned for. Epiphany light does not erase the darkness, but it shows us where to take the next step.

The story ends with a small but important detail: after meeting Christ, the Magi return home by another road. An encounter with God changes direction. We do not always leave with more certainty—but we do leave transformed.

See You in the Pews!

Rev. Jane



What a Christmas! A Season of Wonder, Music, and Community

Dear Friends,

As we come to the close of the Christmas season, I want to pause and say thank you. Advent and Christmas at our church were truly wonderful, and that did not happen by accident. It happened because so many of you gave your time, your energy, your creativity, and your hearts.

Together, we slowed down enough to make room for hope, peace, joy, and love. Through candlelit worship, familiar hymns, moments of stillness, and shared laughter, we were reminded that God meets us in presence—through one another. I am deeply grateful for everyone who decorated, planned, rehearsed, cooked, baked, cleaned, sang, played music, greeted, prayed, directed the pageant, and quietly made sure that everything (and everyone) was cared for. So much faithful work happened both in front of the congregation and behind the scenes, and it all mattered.

Thank you for showing up—tired or joyful, busy or burdened—and for welcoming the Christ child together. It has been a blessing to walk this holy season with you.

Blessings,

Rev. Jane



Christmas at PCC

We had many festive activities during our holiday season. Whether it was the outing to see The Christmas Carol, our children's holiday pageant, or decorating our church for the season, it was an active and beautiful time together. We also shared a fun time with our new friends The Friends Room when our church choir hosted a carol sign-along complete with a visit from Santa himself!



The Christmas Pageant—Thank You Christian Ed!

What a tremendous success our Children's Christmas Pageant was! The sanctuary was filled with laughter, wonder, and more than a few proud smiles as our children brought the Christmas story to life in their own beautiful way. From angels and shepherds to wise ones and stars, every child shone—and reminded us all why this story never gets old.

A huge and heartfelt thank you to Christianna whose creativity, patience, and joyful leadership made the pageant such a delight. Her steady guidance and warm spirit helped our children feel confident, prepared, and excited to share their gifts. We are also deeply grateful to our other two fabulous Sunday School teachers, Jennifer and Kim, who worked for weeks behind the scenes—rehearsing lines, calming nerves, managing costumes, and cheering on every child—to make this special moment possible.

Because of their dedication pageant was not only a success—it was a true highlight of our Christmas season. We couldn't be more thankful.



The Deacons

Did you know?

The Deacons recycling efforts help support many of the programming efforts of the church. The Deacons often subsidize the cost of buses for outings to keep ticket cost low, fund food for functions like the Back to Church picnic and bingo nights, and help fund necessary updates like the new banner on the front of the church. Collecting those cans and bottles count!



Fruit Shelf

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.



Christian Action

Chilly (and warm) Greetings from your Christian Action Board! Happy New Year!

Many thanks to all the volunteers who gave up their time during this busy season to ring the bell for the Salvation Army at Stop & Shop on December 8th. Even our beloved Grinch (Doris) showed up to the delight of many. The proceeds from this event (\$573) will stay in Southington to help those in need.

Also in line for huge thanks is the many people (both from our Congregation and beyond and our tremendous Youth Group) who were challenged to take an ornament or two from our Giving Tree. All 60 ornaments were bought for, wrapped and brought to the armory. Thank you to all who made this event spectacular. Wouldn't you just love to be a mouse on Christmas morning to see all the smiles, joy and love that you helped make happen?

Thank you to all who donated to the Christmas Fund to support retired clergy we collected \$912!

In years past, we have asked for warm items (coats, jackets, snow pants, mittens, scarves, new socks, etc,) in January to be handed out by Southington Community Services. This year (and last) we are asking that you save those warm items until April; when we will be collecting them for the October give away.

Thank you in advance for helping to warm our community. We will be "banging the pots & pans" on **February 8th** for "SOUPER BOWL SUN-DAY". Please bring in a few cans of soup to help feed our community. The soup and any monetary donations will be brought to:

The Mystery Dinner Theatre Players are ready to begin rehearsals in early February!

We are looking forward to our Comfort Food Sale with the tentative date of **February 22nd**.

Have a safe and blessed New Year!

--Your Christian Action Board

Special Presentation

Church Investment Advisor

Join Us After Services on Sunday, January 4

We are pleased to announce that our church's investment advisor, Bill McDonald from Tidewater Investments, will be giving a presentation following services on Sunday, December 14. All members are invited to attend this informative session.

Presentation Topics

- Overview of the church's current investments
- Strategies for tax-efficient giving to the church
- Opportunities to support our mission through financial stewardship

This is a great opportunity to learn more about how your contributions make a difference and ways to maximize your impact through smart giving. Whether you have questions about the church's investments or are interested in learning about best practices for charitable donations, our advisor will be available to answer your questions.

We encourage everyone to stay after the service and participate in this important conversation. Refreshments will be provided.

History Night at PCC

Join us for a delightful Evening of History on **Wednesday, February 4**, as we welcome the Barnes Museum for a fascinating look at the story of our church and the rich history that surrounds it.

Tuesday, February 4 | Evening Hosted by the Barnes Museum

More details to come—but for now, mark your calendar and plan to join us for this special night!



Annual Meeting

Dear Friends at Plantsville Congregational Church,

I'd like to personally invite you to our upcoming Annual Meeting on **Sunday, February 1st**, an important and meaningful moment in the life of our church. This gathering is a chance for us to come together as a congregation to reflect on the year behind us, give thanks for all that God has done among us, and look ahead—together—to the year to come.

At our annual meeting, we will hear reports from our leaders and committees, sharing the joys, challenges, and ministries that shaped our life as a church this past year. We will review our finances, consider and vote on the budget for the coming year, and tend to other important matters that help guide the work and mission of Plantsville Congregational Church. There will also be time for questions and conversation, because your voice matters in the shared life of this community.

While there are practical decisions to be made, this meeting is about more than business. It is an expression of our shared stewardship and our commitment to one another. By gathering, listening, and participating, we live out our belief that the church belongs to all of us—and that together we seek God's guidance for a faithful and hopeful future.

I hope you will join us for this important time in the life of our church.

With gratitude,

Rev. Jane

Contribution Statements

Contribution statements for 2025 will be sent via email the week of January 15th. If you don't have an email address on file, we will send your statement to the address we have on file for you.

Trustees Update

We finished this year's projects in December.

New blinds were installed in the downstairs room that is now dedicated for the Friends Office.

Several plumbing repairs were completed.

The downstairs Santa Room was painted through a donation from Southington Community Services.

The door closer was replaced on the downstairs exit door at the end of the hall. That exit door is getting more use, and this will provide added security.

We are working on an affordable solution to replace the garage roof.

We are also exploring the possibility of installing a handrail along the driveway hill by the kitchen door.

We are extremely grateful for the help we get on many different levels. Thanks to Jay Smith and the people from the Northwest Village School for their work maintaining the grounds, setup and takedown of tables and chairs in Fellowship Hall, and many other projects. Also thanks to everyone that has helped with workdays and contributed to our Capital Improvements.

Thank you

Chairman Board of Trustees

Dan Camilleri

A Friendly Reminder

As a shared space, we kindly ask everyone to help keep our church safe and energy-efficient. If you are the last to leave after a meeting or activity, please remember to turn off all lights and ensure the doors are securely locked. Thank you for your help in caring for our church home!

Al-Anon Meetings

Our weekly Al-Anon Meeting is Thursdays at 10:00AM in the library.

The Al-Anon Family Groups are a fellowship of relatives and friends of people with addictions who share their experience, strength, and hope, in order to solve their common problems. Al-Anon has one purpose: to help families of people with addiction issues. Al-Anon does this by welcoming and giving comfort to families of those with substance abuse issues.

From the Music Director

We are looking to welcome new members to our Bell Choir! If you have an interest in music and some prior musical experience, we would love to have you be part of this special group. The Bell Choir rehearses once a week on Thursdays at 6:30pm during the fall, winter and spring seasons, and we appreciate regular attendance as we prepare meaningful music for worship. Come, be a part of the fellowship, fun, and beautiful sound that our bells bring to each service. No prior bell-ringing experience is necessary-just a willing heart and a love for music!

We are also looking for new members for our vocal choir which rehearses Thursdays at 7:30pm.

If you are interested or have any questions, please see Music Director, Marilyn Cannata.

Monday Movers!

It's always a great time to join the MONDAY MOVERS! We meet on Mondays at 8:30 in the parking lot and take a walk on the trail. It's a great way to start the week. Grab your sneakers and join us!

