News and information for the December newsletter must be received by November 18th. You may leave information in the holder located on the wall in the kitchen.

WHAT TIME IS IT?

It’s time (actually, it’s past the time) for people (society) to be civil -- to treat others with respect. To refrain from using unnecessary and unkind language when talking about people who think differently, or hold an opposing point of view, or worship in a way that is different. It’s time to stop the hate and the senseless killing that is occurring all-too often in our country.

It’s time for our President to stop saying words that often offend, anger, and upset people (Democrats, Republicans, and Independents alike). It’s time for ALL people and ALL political persuasions to think about their words and actions before they say them, or before they act. It’s time to stop all the talk about impeachment.

It’s time to accept that Donald Trump IS our president. It’s time to come together as a nation and become the United States of America once again. I fear that if we do not unite soon, we, the people, will destroy the country we love; no outside enemy will be necessary. It’s time to live better than we have been living. We CAN do it!

Seven days ago, we witnessed the horror of another mass killing by a deranged man with a gun in Pittsburgh. Eleven lives ended that Saturday morning as people (family and friends) gathered for services in the Tree of Life Synagogue. Lives were wiped out instantly, on a day when worshippers gathered for a joyful event – the naming of a newborn baby. It’s time for people of all faiths, to pray for each other and our troubled country.

It’s time to look at our lives and assess how we are living. To think carefully about the things we value, or believe to be important.

What about your church? Where does it fit on your list of what’s important in your life? Sadly, many will answer, “It’s not high on my list, or even on my list of important things.”
WEDNESDAY NEWS

+++ have any questions (898.3498), please call 3498.3498. Thank you.

+++ You are needed for the next 30 days. Thank you.

+++ Your 30th Birthday... may have been the greatest.

+++ Financial Report

+++ Do you know... the number of people in the United States who are homeless?

+++ Senior Lunch

+++ November 15, 2023: Please keep his wishes in mind.

+++ Your support is greatly appreciated.

+++ October 25, 2023: Please keep your prayers and support for Bob in mind.

+++ Your presence matters.

+++ November 23, 2023: Please keep your prayers and support for the family.

+++ Your gift will make a difference.

+++ November 20, 2023: Please keep your prayers and support for the family.

+++ Your prayers are needed now more than ever.

+++ November 18, 2023: Please keep your prayers and support for the family.

+++ Your love and support are needed now more than ever.

+++ November 17, 2023: Please keep your prayers and support for the family.

+++ Your prayers are needed now more than ever.

+++ November 16, 2023: Please keep your prayers and support for the family.

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+++ November 15, 2023: Please keep your prayers and support for the family.

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+++ November 14, 2023: Please keep your prayers and support for the family.

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+++ November 13, 2023: Please keep your prayers and support for the family.

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+++ November 12, 2023: Please keep your prayers and support for the family.

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+++ November 10, 2023: Please keep your prayers and support for the family.

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+++ November 9, 2023: Please keep your prayers and support for the family.

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+++ November 8, 2023: Please keep your prayers and support for the family.

+++ Your prayers are needed now more than ever.

+++ November 7, 2023: Please keep your prayers and support for the family.

+++ Your prayers are needed now more than ever.

+++ November 6, 2023: Please keep your prayers and support for the family.

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+++ November 5, 2023: Please keep your prayers and support for the family.

+++ Your prayers are needed now more than ever.

+++ November 4, 2023: Please keep your prayers and support for the family.

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+++ November 3, 2023: Please keep your prayers and support for the family.

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+++ November 1, 2023: Please keep your prayers and support for the family.

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+++ October 31, 2023: Please keep your prayers and support for the family.

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+++ October 30, 2023: Please keep your prayers and support for the family.

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+++ October 24, 2023: Please keep your prayers and support for the family.

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(Cont.)
If you missed the organ concert on October 28th, you missed an amazing event. The hour-long concert featured classical pieces, hymn tunes, as well as music from Broadway shows and well-known movies. We appreciate all the work that went into making the concert possible: Robin Lyon and the Music Committee (the reception that followed was wonderful!), John Marino and his crew that moved the organ onto the chancel, Ed Shea for removing the chancel walls, and the memorial fund of Lois Grodutzke who sponsored the event for so many people to enjoy.

+++ SPEAKING OF JOHN MARINO...
Not long ago John was selected as "Italian of the Year" by the Italian Heritage and Cultural Committee of Norwich. A wonderful article about John's award is posted on the mid-level bulletin board. Earlier in October, a banquet was held in his honor to celebrate his many achievements. He is a very dedicated man, not only to his heritage, but to his church. Congratulations, John! We appreciate everything you do for the church.

+++ OPPORTUNITIES TO GIVE
Several people have asked that you, the congregation, consider one or all the opportunities below this Thanksgiving & Christmas season:

COATS for the homeless and those in need. Again this year Laurie Bowers is collecting coats and bringing them to area shelters and centers for those in need. Please put your unwanted coats in the library at the back of the Sunday School hall (NOT in the clothing bin in the parking lot). Last year, more than 200 coats were collected and distributed thanks to your generosity! Coats will be collected through December 16th.

TOYS for kids at the Children's Hospital in Hartford. Consider donating something new to a child who will most likely be spending the holidays in the hospital this year. A list of suggested gifts and needs is posted on the mid-level bulletin board. Koren Jopson is coordinating this opportunity. You may leave your gift(s) at the back the Sunday School hall. Toys will be collected through December 16th.

MEALS for Mary & Justin Nylen are being gratefully collected through November 18th. Volunteers are asked to make (or bake) and freeze a meal and bring it to the church on Sunday morning. Your meal will be put in the freezer, and Sue Nylen will take the meals to Maine for the Nylen's. Justin has a brain tumor, and these meals, homemade or store-bought will make meal preparation much easier during this very difficult time. Many thanks to those who have already donated a meal. Debbi Harrison is coordinating this opportunity.

Please note the "stop dates" for these various opportunities. In the weeks following, we'll assess the needs of these opportunities to see if they need to be extended. Thank you for whatever you are able to do. It will mean so much to those on the receiving end.

Monday morning Bible study continues in November in Halls' Hall. We're nearing the end of our study of the Gospel of John. Our next study will be an interesting video series (Follow) by Andy Stanley. No matter what you believe, no matter how you behave, Jesus invites you to... FOLLOW. Watch the worship folder for the start date. All are welcome to attend whenever you are able. Rev. White leads the group, and the coffee pot is always on! Please bring your Bible if you have one. If you'd like a bible, speak with Rev. Stan. They are available from the Deacons' Fund.

The Tuesday evening Bible Study continues through the fall and winter, led by Scott Van Alst. The group meets at 6:30 P.M. in Halls' Hall and is presently exploring the books of the Old Testament.

+++ READING MATERIALS
Copies of The Upper Room and Our Daily Bread are available on the Information Center table. These are great daily devotional booklets, written to encourage you in your faith journey. Please pick up a copy, they're "FREE."

HOLIDAY BAZAAR
This annual tradition will be held on Saturday, November 17th, from 9 – 2 p.m. Got something Christmas-related you'd like to sell? You can reserve a table and be part of the fun. The cost of a table will be determined soon. Alison Lowe will serve as the event's coordinator again this year.
Yeast New Years Eve Morning Worship

Surely on this day also I have prepared a feast for you, the children of Zion, to whom I am consecrated for a holy nation.

NEW YEARS EVE MORNING WORSHIP:

12/30 Join us as we welcome the Child
with special music, dramatic readings, and a service for children and their families.

12/24 CHRISTMAS EVE
Join us for the service.

MEN'S GROUP

ALL COMING UP IN DECEMBER

If you need more:

9 a.m. Coffee and donuts will be served. This is a regular meeting of the men's group, please come and join us.

9:30 Collette on Wheels, the next meeting of the prayer group is scheduled for the next Sunday morning at 9 a.m. in the hall. All men of the church are invited to the next meeting.
A WORD FROM THE DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION...

THIS WEEK at the Confirmation Class, one of the students asked me what the minister does in between the Sundays he needs to be here. I was ready for that question...I did not have to do any research on it! I outlined the events of just that one day for him: at 6 a.m. taking a church member to the hospital that needed to be there, back to make the coffee for Bible study, then 10-11:30 he had Bible study, then he was in his office working on his newsletter, and then on to visit an ill church member in the late afternoon, back to the church to assist with lifting the organ back into place after the wonderful concert the previous day! In between all that are phone calls, office visits. Yes, this is a busy place and there are no two days the same with all the different activities and church requests. I'd like to think that, not only the staff, but the people in our church are doing their best to serve God. I am thinking of a song we sing in Sunday School that is titled "I Am Sent By God"...Here are some of the words in that song: "I am sent by God, I'm ready to serve; to make the world a place of justice and shalom. The angels cannot do the work that must be done, to change a hurting world into a world of peace. The task is given to us to build a better world. Please help us, God, to do the things you ask of me."

All of us need to work hard in any way we can to make this a better place than it is right now. It starts with caring and kindness and sacrifice, of giving up something we want, oftentimes to help others who need help. Do you get paid — absolutely — it is the good feeling you have at the end of the day when someone's life has been better because they have passed your way. Our challenges are forever with us, but know that God makes the impossible, possible. I know God has never let me down. Keep believing and working for the Lord; I believe He has need of you and me!

May the SONshine through me, Sandy Dudek

NOVEMBER BIBLE VERSES

Toddler 3 – Grade 2: "Love your neighbor as yourself." (Mark 12:31)
(Mark 10:14b)

Grades 3-12:
"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son, and of the Holy Spirit." Matthew 28:19 The Great Commission

SOME THINGS I'd like you to know:

Sunday School pageants rehearsals start Tuesday, November 6th, at 6:00 in the church (Sanctuary) for students Toddler 3 – Grade 6. Please sign the sheet on the hallway bulletin board if you have not already.

NOONE has signed up to date for this year's Youth Mission Trip to the Adirondacks, NY July 14th–19th, 2019. The first deposit was due October 28th. Please speak to the VanAlst if you plan to go and give your deposit to hold your spot.

THE HIGH SCHOOL CLASS was on hand at Preston Senior Housing to do fall clean-up which was very much appreciated. They also prepared Meals that Heal that were delivered.

FRIENDSGIVING SUNDAY is planned for our high school class on November 18th following worship.

A CHRISTMAS PARTY is planned for our Sr. Pilgrim Fellowship December 9th following service.

A PAINT NIGHT is planned for January 11th at 6:30 p.m. Please save the date to paint a winter scene. The cost will be $30.

THANK YOU to everyone who signed up to provide a basket for the Christmas Bazaar the Board of Religious Education is sponsoring as a fundraiser. Please know how much your efforts are appreciated and the profit realized will go to support Sunday School programs.

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL is bringing in items to put together some Thanksgiving baskets. If you would like to help them buy providing a turkey or a donation for pies, please give it to Sandy Dudek.
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**Notes:** To place flowers in the church during November, sign up at the Welcome Desk during service times.

**Phone:** 860.564.2909.