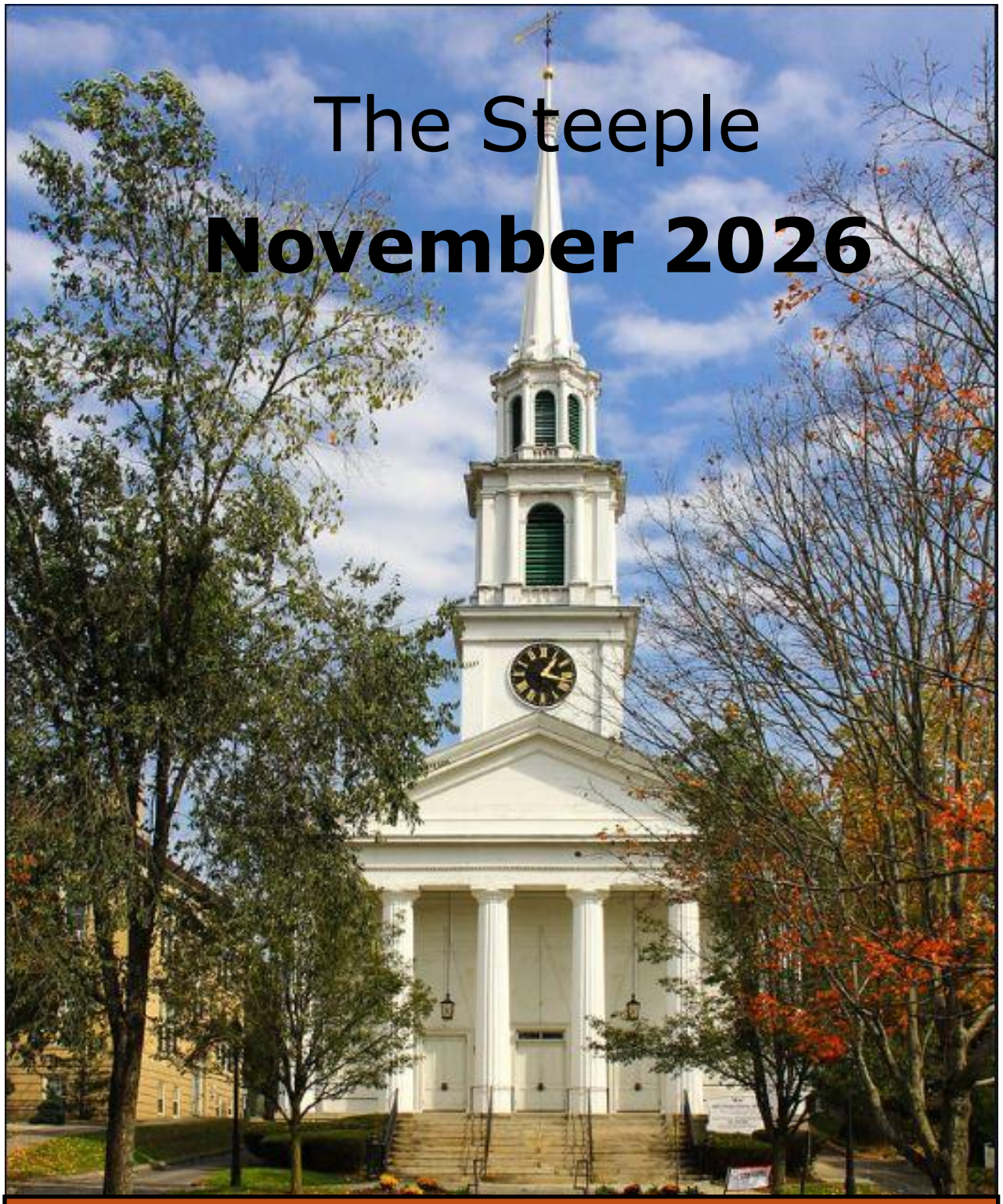


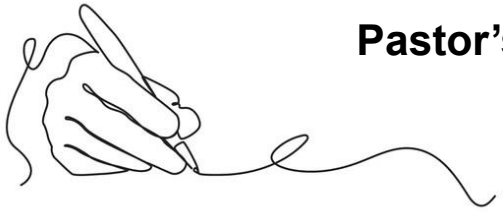
The Steeple

November 2026

First Congregational Church

36 Main Street, New Milford, CT, 06776

860-354-8232 | nmchurch.org



Pastor's Message

Dear Friends,

The holiday season is upon us! It is the time when we gather with family and friends to share in the blessings of the season. It is also the time when we gather as a church family to celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus. It is a time of tradition and sharing. It is a time of cheer and expectation. It can also be a time of reflection and heartache.

However, you experience the holidays, know that you have a place with us. In Advent we remember how God's people waited and wondered, hoping for salvation to come. Waiting is difficult, easy, expected, never-ending, and fleeting. The four Sundays of Advent, leading us to Christmas, have us journey all those feelings and more. Our Advent journeys remind us that we welcome the Christ child into world where both joy and grief live side by side.

Please come celebrate the arrival of the Christ child into the world once again. May your Advent journey lead you to a Christmas that is life-giving and bright.

Blessings,

Rev. Marie

Looking Ahead

November 28:	**Holiday Craft fair 10:00 am - 3:00 pm**
December 2:	**Lunch and Learn 12:30 pm**
December 5:	**Women's Ministry Christmas Gathering 2:00 pm**
December 6:	**Advent Brunch**
December 13:	**Christmas Concert 4:00 pm**

December 20: **Christmas Pageant**

December 24: **Christmas Eve Family Service 4:00 pm**

Christmas Eve Service of Lessons, Carols & Communion 8:00 pm

Lunch & Learn



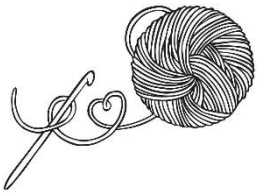
Lunch & Learn will host our very own Rev. Marie for a program on the history of Christmas Carols at our December 2nd meeting.

We always meet on the first Wednesday of the month at 12:30 p.m. in the Taylor room.

All are welcome for this time of Fellowship. Lunch & Learn is a potluck event, please bring a dish to share.

The January meeting is scheduled for Wednesday January 6th and will feature Diane Hoyt from the Friends of the Library

Chapel Stitchers



The Chapel Stitchers will have crocheted stars to give out during Advent. The Deacons will determine the best way to distribute.

Look for them on our sanctuary Christmas tree.

Are you interested in learning to knit or crochet? The stitchers meet on the second Sunday of the month following coffee hour in the Chapel. All are welcome to join us - we have needles and yarn, just show up!

Christian Education News

A Season of Joy, Faith & Togetherness

The most wonderful time of the year is here, and Christian Education is excited for all the special moments December will bring!
As we enter the Advent season, we are reminded of the true meaning of Christmas: love, hope, joy, peace, and the birth of Jesus Christ. Our Sunday School children will spend the month learning about the Christmas story through Bible lessons, crafts, and fun activities that help bring the story of Jesus' birth to life.

Holiday Craft Fair

Join us for a wonderful day of shopping, fellowship, and holiday cheer on Saturday, November 28! Our annual craft fair is a great opportunity to support local crafters and get a head start on Christmas shopping.

Advent Chili Luncheon

Please join us following worship in Fellowship Hall for our annual Advent Chili Luncheon on Sunday, December 6! This is a wonderful opportunity for our church family to come together, enjoy delicious food, and celebrate the beginning of the Christmas season.

We will have children's crafts, Christmas tree decorating, and plenty of holiday cheer! Please keep an eye out for our sign-up sheet to see how you can help make this special event a success.

Spreading Christmas Joy

Christian Education is excited to continue spreading kindness and generosity this holiday season. Through our holiday raffle, we are raising funds to purchase Christmas gifts for the Social Services Santa Fund. What a wonderful way to teach our children the importance of giving back and helping those in need!

The True Meaning of Christmas

December is such a magical time for children, and our hope is to remind them that Christmas is about so much more than presents under the tree. It is about the gift of Jesus, sharing God's love, helping others, and being thankful for the blessings in our lives.

We are so grateful for our wonderful church family and everyone who supports Christian Education throughout the year. Your kindness, generosity, and willingness to help make these programs possible.

From all of us in Christian Education, we wish you and your families a blessed Advent season, a very Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year!

With love and blessings,
Katie Johnson
Christian Education Director

Keep the church up to date

Please help the church keep your family information up to date. Maybe you canceled a landline or changed your cell phone number. Have you moved, changed jobs, or made other changes? If so, please let the church know so that we can contact you efficiently and keep you up to date on church activities and events. Most people forget to notify the church when a change happens. If you or someone in your household has made changes in the last few years and are uncertain if the church knows, please send an email to the clerk@nmchurch.org with the information or call Carole in the office at 860-354-8232.

Office Updates

The office will be closed on:

Thursday, Nov. 26 and Friday, Nov. 27 so that our staff can celebrate Thanksgiving with their friends and families.

If you would like to make a donation, **Digital Giving** is available.	
Please scan the QR Code to donate. We kindly ask that you use the comment feature to direct your contribution.	Imagine Together
Your continued support to the church is appreciated.	

November 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 **Remembrance Sunday** Worship 10 am Coffee Hour 11 am	2	3	4 Lunch & Learn 12:30 pm	5	6	7
8 **Stewardship Sunday** Worship 10 am Coffee Hour 11 am Deacon Meeting 11am Chapel Stitchers 11:30am	9 Woman of the Bible Study Group 1 pm	10	11 Office Closed	12	13	14
15 Reception of New Members Worship 10 am Coffee Hour 11 am **Congregational Meeting 11 am**	16 Woman of the Bible Study Group 1 pm	17	18 Church Management meeting 7pm	19	20 Transgender Day of Remembrance 7pm	21 Men's Breakfast 8:30 am
22 Worship 10 am Coffee Hour 11 am	23 Woman of the Bible Study Group 1 pm Church Council 6:30 pm	24	25	26 Office Closed **Happy Thanksgiving**	27 Office Closed	28 Craft Fair 10am-3pm
29 Reception of New Members Worship 10 am Coffee Hour 11 am	30					

December 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 Lunch & Learn 12:30 pm	3	4	5 Women's Ministry Christmas Gathering 2 pm
6 **Advent Brunch** Worship 10 am Coffee Hour 11 am	7 Woman of the Bible Study Group 1 pm	8	9	10	11	12
13 Worship 10 am Coffee Hour 11 am Deacon Meeting 11am Chapel Stitchers 11:30 am **Christmas Concert** **4pm**	14 Woman of the Bible Study Group 1 pm	15	16 Church Management Meeting 7pm	17	18	19 Men's Breakfast 8:30 am
20 **Christmas Pageant** Worship 10 am Coffee Hour 11 am	21 Woman of the Bible Study Group 1 pm Church Council 6:30pm	22	23	24 Office Closed Family Service 4pm Service of Lessons, Carols & Communion 8pm	25 Office Closed **Merry** **Christmas**	26
27 Worship 10 am Coffee Hour 11 am	28 Woman of the Bible Study Group 1 pm	29	30	31		

January 2027

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Office Closed Happy New Year	2
3 Worship 10 am Coffee Hour 11 am	4 Woman of the Bible Study Group 1 pm	5	6 Lunch & Learn 12:30pm	7	8	9
10 Worship 10 am Coffee Hour 11 am Chapel Stitchers 11:30am Deacon Meeting 11am	11 Woman of the Bible Study Group 1 pm	12	13 Church Management meeting 7pm	14	15	16 Men's Breakfast 8:30am
17 Worship 10 am Coffee Hour 11 am Unity in the Community Event 2-4 pm	18 Office Closed Woman of the Bible Study Group 1 pm Church Council 6:30 pm	19	20	21	22	23
24 Worship 10 am Coffee Hour 11 am	25 Woman of the Bible Study Group 1 pm	26	27	28	29	30