



*All Welcomed. All Valued. All Loved.  
An Open & Affirming and “God is Still Speaking” Church*

*The Congregational Church of Plainville serves the community  
in the Spirit of Christ.*



The Order of Morning Worship  
First Sunday of Advent

December 3, 2023

10 A.M.

*May you receive God's comfort, insight & inspiration through worship, prayer & song.*

\* please stand in body and/or spirit

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WORSHIP COVENANT

**O God, we covenant to worship you with our whole being this morning. We give to you our vulnerabilities and humanness, and pray you will encompass us with the light of your Grace. We look to your perfect compassion which we pray will fill us in turn, O God, as we worship you in word, in song, and in truth. Amen.**

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE OF HOPE

O God, we light the first candle of Advent. We kindle it with hope. We long for you to come to our world, to break through and reign with compassion, justice, and peace. The prophet Isaiah also cried to God to tear open heaven and come down. He called God's people to do right. Isaiah called them to be refashioned like clay by God, the potter. This Advent, we call out to God.

**Mighty God, creator of the world, break through all that keeps us from you. We ask for your mercy and reform us in your image. This Advent, visit us with your justice, love, and peace. Amen.**

\*HYMN

*O Come, O Come Emmanuel*

NCH #116 (vs. 1-2, 6-7)

OPENING PRAYER

SELAH *(a moment of silence to settle ourselves with and our hearts in God)*

MESSAGE OF CHRISTIAN CONCERN

Ruthe Boiczuk

COMMUNION

COMMUNION LITURGY

see insert

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, Who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy Name. Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

\* the children depart to their classroom\*

GLORIA PATRI

***Glory to the Creator and to the Christ and to the Comforter.  
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be:  
World without end, Amen, Amen.***

\*HYMN

*In the Bleak Midwinter*

see insert

PSALM

*Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19*

GOSPEL READING

*Mark 13:24-37*

REFLECTION

"The Comings of Christ"

JOYS, SORROWS OR CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

\*HYMN

*O Little Town of Bethlehem*

NCH #133

INVITATION TO GIVE

PRAYER OF GRATITUDE (in unison)

**For the wondrous ways this offering with breath hope into community. For the ways it'll help us live out God's mission, we dedicate these gifts. Let these gifts strengthen our call to carry out God's justice and mercy.**

\*DOXOLOGY

***Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise God all Creatures here below. Praise God above ye heavenly hosts, Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.***

\*CLOSING WORDS

POSTLUDE

## WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Sunday	10:00 a.m.	Worship Service <i>~In-person Worship will be live-streamed via Facebook~</i>
Wednesday	10:00 a.m.	Coffee Fellowship at Panera, Bristol
	7:00 p.m.	God-Talk @ C.C.P.
Thursday	10:00 a.m.	Coffee w. Rev. Don at Rebel Dog, Plainville

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Today's GCT Member in Charge:

Donna Zapatka  
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### *In our Prayers this week, we remember:*

Charlotte Karabin, Luke Cote, Amy Albert & family, Ben (Rev. Suzy Rivera's brother), Carol (Ed Cassinari's sister), Ellen (Rose Eaton's friend Mark's mother), Wayne Scott (Beth Fraychak's brother-in-law), Bill & Bud Hawes (Sue Piercy's brother & nephew), Lewiston Maine Community, Sarah & Family (Kaara Koplowitz's friends), Linda (Frank Eaton's aunt), Dawn Clarke & Briana Cruz, Windsor H.S. Community, Steve Guglietta, Michael Letendre, Victor (Pops) (Marilyn Ronewicz's neighbor's father), Tommy McCormack (Bev Letendre's cousin), Mark & Family (Sue Piercy's friend), Elizabeth Farnum (Teresa Talarico's mother), Students & Educators, Healthcare Workers, Essential Workers, Marilyn Borry, Sandy Dombroski, Barbara McClellan, Claranne Parker, Sue Piercy, Ruth Seeds, Gabriel Smykla, Bobbi & Norm Turcotte

**The families and friends of:** Latasha Copeland, Norma Stewart, Rob (Rose & Frank Eaton's friend), Rudolph Tardiff, Ann Meyer (Marianne Wright's aunt), Thomas Drachenberg (Russ Drachenberg's cousin), Ralph Buono, Fran Rose, Susan Czako (Teresa Talarico's friend's mom), Carol Renzulli, Dr. Karen Hook, Rusty Camp, Tyler Corriveau, Doug (Rose Eaton's friend)

**Members and friends serving in the military:** Jason Guglietta, Bryant J. Cruz, Aiden, Jady, Isaiah, Rayne, Thomas Heslin, Beth Smith, Mark Joseloff, Adam Smith, Spencer Pelletier, James Palmer, Mark Terrill, Ryan Steikers, Shawn Ellis

For peace, wisdom, and compassion in our communities, state, nation, and world and in the leaders therein.

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**The Rev. Don Erickson, Senior Minister**

Peter Peluso, Guest Organist

Teresa Talarico, Church Administrator

The Congregational Church of Plainville, United Church of Christ

130 West Main Street, Plainville, Connecticut 06062

Phone: (860) 747-1901 ~ Email: [churchoffice@uccplainville.org](mailto:churchoffice@uccplainville.org)

Website: [uccplainville.org](http://uccplainville.org)

## COMMUNION

### INTRODUCTION

SACRED SILENCE *(for personal reflection and centering)*

With reverence and faith and love, draw near.

**Blessed is he that comes in the name of the Lord. God is the Lord and has appeared unto us.**

### COMMUNION LITANY

*“The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, “This is my body broken for you” And He passed the bread to them.*

*(distribute bread)*

O God, just as this broken loaf was scattered over the hill as grain, and, having been gathered together, became one; in like fashion, may your church be gathered together from the ends of the earth into your kingdom.

**People: *Because yours is the glory and the power through Jesus Christ forever.***

The Body of Christ, the Bread of Life...

In remembrance of our Lord Jesus, Our Way, Truth, and Life *(partake)*

*“In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, “This cup is the new covenant effected by my lifeblood.” And he passed the cup to them.*

*(distribute juice)*

O God, just as this juice comes from a gathering of grapes grown on a vine rooted deep, in like fashion, may we be rooted in the Vine that is Christ, and bear good fruit together as look to your kingdom.

**People: *Because yours is the glory and the power through Jesus Christ forever.***

The Lifeblood of the New Covenant, the Cup of Wholeness...

In remembrance of our Lord Jesus, Our Way, Truth, and Life *(partake)*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### THE ARTHOUSE AT COFFEE HOUR

On *December 3rd* at our Art House at Coffee Hour we will be hosting *Christine Pestillo*, a local children's author who recently self-published a 32-page Christmas storybook for kids ages 3-8.

Christine's book, *Danny Disappoints Santa*, is not an ordinary tale of naughty kids on a Christmas day. It's really the opposite, teaching kids to cherish their gifts given to them, especially by Santa! This book is written in memory of Christine's mom who passed away in 2022. It is a book that both kids and adults will enjoy! Books will be on sale for \$10.

### RE-MEMBERSHIP CLASS

Please join us for a "Re-Membership Class" which will begin *Sunday, Dec. 10<sup>th</sup>*, after Sunday Service, and continue once a month on each 2nd Sunday through March (4 classes in total). The class will serve as either a membership class for those wanting to become new members during Lent 2024 or a refresher for those who were confirmed/became church members years ago. If you have any questions, please contact the Church Office.

### C.C.P. PRESENTS... A HOLIDAY CONCERT WITH CHORUS ANGELICUS

Chorus Angelicus is comprised of four choral ensembles, involving more than seventy children who hail from towns throughout southwestern New England. This holiday concert will feature the youngest students of Chorus Angelicus, *The Angels in Training*. Come join us for this festive event on *December 17<sup>th</sup> at 3 p.m.* as they will present a lovely and lively selection of holiday music and will include guest artists from the Chorus Angelicus community.



## *2023 CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS*

We are pleased to announce that we will once again be offering Christmas Poinsettias!

Participants will have the opportunity to donate Poinsettias in honor or remembrance of someone special in their lives. The plants will then be given to those members that need to be remembered by our Church during this season. The beautiful plants are purchased through Karabin Farms in Southington CT. They are delivered to the church and displayed in the sanctuary during the Christmas week services, with the names of the donors and those they are honoring or remembering listed in the Order of Service. **There will be one line for each donated plant.** The plants are \$12.00 each.

Also, this year, participants will have the option to make a **suggested donation of \$12.00** to C.C.P. in honor, or remembrance, of someone special with the names of the donors and those they are honoring or remembering listed in the Order of Service, **but with no plants ordered.**

Lastly, we will again take orders for plants that may be wanted for personal use. You will be asked to pick the plants up at the church on Saturday, December 16th. These plants **will not** be noted in the Order of Service.

Please complete the form on the back and return it to the Church Office with payment by **Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup>. No order will be accepted without payment.** You may attach multiple forms together if needed. All plants must be pre-ordered. Please circle Honor or Memory in each notation.

Checks (made out to C.C. P.) or Cash will be accepted. Payment and completed forms can be returned to:

The Congregational Church of Plainville, UCC  
130 West Main Street  
Plainville, CT 06062

This floral ministry of the church is coordinated through the God Care Team and the Minister.

Please contact the Church Office at [churchoffice@uccplainville.org](mailto:churchoffice@uccplainville.org) or 860/747-1901 with any questions.

Thank you for participating in this beautiful ministry.



## 2023 Poinsettia Order Form

**Order Deadline: Sunday, Dec. 10, 2023**

**Price: \$12.00 each (All orders require prepayment)**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

- I would like to **donate** \_\_\_\_ (# of plants) in honor/memory of the following people. These plants are donated to the church for distribution to persons to be determined by the Minister and the Worship Team. *Please circle Honor or Memory in each notation.* (This is a tax-deductible contribution.)

In Loving Honor / Memory (circle one) of \_\_\_\_\_

In Loving Honor / Memory (circle one) of \_\_\_\_\_

In Loving Honor / Memory (circle one) of \_\_\_\_\_

- I would like to **donate \$12.00** in honor/memory of the people noted below. *(No plants purchased)* Please circle Honor or Memory in each notation. (This is a tax-deductible contribution.)

In Loving Honor / Memory (circle one) of \_\_\_\_\_

In Loving Honor / Memory (circle one) of \_\_\_\_\_

In Loving Honor / Memory (circle one) of \_\_\_\_\_

- I would like to order \_\_\_\_ (# of plants) for **personal use**. I will pick these up at church on Saturday, December 16<sup>th</sup>. I understand these will not be noted in the bulletin.

**Total # plants ordered** \_\_\_\_\_ **x \$12.00 = \$** \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to "C.C.P."

Send checks and completed forms to:

The Congregation Church of Plainville, UCC  
130 West Main Street  
Plainville, CT 06062