



The Congregational Church of Plainville UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

***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.*



SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT
Sunday, December 7, 2025 • 10:00 A.M.

Congregational responses are in bold type.

*Indicates: Please stand if you are able.

WE PREPARE FOR WORSHIP

Prelude

In Dulci Jubilo

arr. Wilbur Held

Message of Welcome

Morning Announcements

PRAISE

*Call to Worship

The spirit of God shall rest on him,

This little child who will lead us.

The spirit of wisdom and understanding shall rest on him,

This little child who will lead us.

The spirit of counsel,

This little child.

The spirit of knowledge and the fear of God.

His name is Jesus.

*Hymn

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

NCH #122

Congregational Joys, Sorrows and Concerns

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE

The Candle of Peace

Teresa & Nicholas Collins will lead the lighting of the candle.

Leader: The sun shall be no more your light by day, nor for
brightness shall the moon adorn the night. But the Lord
will be your glory, the lamp to light your way. The Lord will
be your everlasting light.

All: **Lift up your eyes and see the light surround you;
With radiant hope, illuminate the night. Lift up your
voice and sing, let earth and heaven ring, Lift up your
eyes and see the everlasting light.**

Leader: During Advent, God's light illuminates a weary world.
For any who have grown weary of waiting:

People: God speaks, "Peace, be still."

Leader: For any who are anxious about the worries of tomorrow:

People: God speaks, "Peace, be still."

Leader: For any whose lips have been silenced:

People: God speaks, "Peace, be still."

Leader: This morning, we light two candles. The **first candle** reminds us in a dark and weary world; our hope lies securely in the grace and truth of Jesus Christ. The **second candle** radiates God's perfect peace to calm our restless souls. As we continue our journey, let us be encouraged with hope, comforted with peace, and guided in truth.

Unison Prayer

Gracious Lord, our souls long for the peace that only You can provide. We confess that, all too often, we only add to the discord, separation, and tension around us. Help us to feel Your peace in our lives and strive to reflect it more in our witness. We pray this in Jesus' name. Amen.

THE LORD'S SUPPER

Invitation

Morning Prayers • Silent Prayers

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.

Consecration and Words of Institution

Distribution and Sharing of the Elements

Message of Christian Concern

Lynnette Astolfi

**The children depart to their classroom **

Anthem

Calypso Noel

Krunnfusz

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

A reading from the Prophet Isaiah 11:1-11

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins. The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze, their young

shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious. On that day the Lord will extend his hand yet a second time to recover the remnant that is left of his people, from Assyria, from Egypt, from Pathros, from Ethiopia, from Elam, from Shinar, from Hamath, and from the coastlands of the sea.

*Hymn

Comfort, Comfort O My People

NCH #101

A reading from the gospel of Mark 1:1-8

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, "*See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.'*"

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

Morning Message

It's Happening!

Rev. Dr. McCarthy

DEDICATION

Offertory Sentences

*Doxology (Advent verses)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. We wait in anticipation here below.

Praise God for signs of love and care. For God's Emmanuel is everywhere! Amen!

*Offertory Prayer

WE PREPARE TO GO TO THE WORLD

*Hymn

The First Nowell

NCH #139 (v.1,2,3)

*Benediction

Choral Benediction

Postlude

Voluntary in E Minor

John Stanley

(Please remain seated until the Postlude is completed.)

Join Us for Fellowship & Coffee in Kelsey Hall after Worship

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Sunday **9:15 a.m.** **Choir Rehearsal**
10:00 a.m. **Worship Service**

Wednesday **10:00 a.m.** **Coffee Fellowship at Panera, Bristol**

Thursday **7:00 p.m.** **Choir Rehearsal**

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**Today's GCT Member in Charge:**

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In our Prayers this week, we remember: Savannah Cote, Ron Wright (Marianne Wright's father-in-law), Nancy Little (Jon Pendleton's friend), Tom Chester, Dori Nowak (Beth Fraychak's sister-in-law), Cameron Cole, Lorry Jorsey, Owen (Marilyn Ronewicz's grandson), Jim Negro (Joanna Vastola's uncle), Gianna, Those suffering with Mental Health Issues & Grief over the holidays, Russ Drachenberg, Karen Hodge, Ray & Gail, Gary (Rev. Suzy Rivera's brother-in-law), Garry (Rev. Suzy Rivera's friend), Emily Vitale, Carl & Ellen Binder, Tommy McCormick (Bev. Letendre's cousin), Ashley (Cheryl Cone's neighbor), Mary (Rose Eaton's friend), Diana, John Castro (Bill Calder's friend), Steve Cote (Rex Cone's cousin), Irene Mohr, Polly, Tonette (Teresa Talarico's friend), Angela, Nancy (Jocelyn Michaud's friend), Noah (Ruthe Boiczuk's grandson), First Responders, John Borry, Jr., Marilyn Borry, Melissa Mazurek, Barbara McClellan, Jocelyn Michaud, Stormi Morrison (Donna Zapatka's cousin), Claranne Parker, Sue Piercy, Gabriel Smykla, Bobbi Turcotte, Linda Valeri

The families and friends of: Kevin Levesque, Bob O'Dea, Pete Hermance (Nicholas Collins's friend), Robert Ouellette, Vick (Cheryl Cone's friend), Norman Olsen, Claranne B. Parker

Members and friends serving in the military: Sabrina Sedor, Noah Westkott, Jason Guglietta, Bryant J. Cruz, Aiden, Jadyn, 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. Dr. Barry J. McCarthy, Intentional Interim Minister**

Richard Carsey, Choir Director & Organist

Teresa Talarico, Office Manager

The Congregational Church of Plainville, United Church of Christ

130 West Main Street, Plainville, Connecticut 06062

Phone: (860) 747-1901 ~ Email: churchoffice@uccplainville.org ~ Website: uccplainville.org

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### BLESSING BOX & FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS

The holidays are upon us, and food insecurity is higher than ever. We will continue to collect donations for our ***Blessing Box*** and the ***Plainville Community Food Pantry*** on Sunday mornings. As you do your weekly shopping, please prayerfully consider adding a few extra items for our collection. Keep an eye out for your favorite stores' BOGO, can-can and holiday savings specials. Donations for the Blessing Box can be placed in the box at the back entrance; Food Pantry items can go in the basket in the Narthex. Thank you for your continued support of this important mission.

### CHRISTMAS WISH TREE

Gift tags were placed on the tree in the Narthex for the children in the caseload of our Covenant to Care for Children Social Worker, Ashley. We must remind you that gifts (including gift cards) must not exceed \$50.00. Please wrap the gift and securely tape the card to the package or gift card. Placing a gift card in a Christmas card is a good idea. We ask that you return the Gift, or Gift Card to the church by **Sunday, December 14th**.

### SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE & LIGHT

Join us for a ***Service of Remembrance & Light*** on **December 14<sup>th</sup>** at **10 a.m.** for a worship of music, scripture, and liturgy for those who are hurting during this Holiday season and remembrance of those loved ones we have lost this past year.

### CHRISTMAS FUND COLLECTION

On **December 21, 2025**, we will receive donations for the Christmas Fund. Members wishing to contribute to the Christmas Fund may either send donations directly to the Congregational Church of Plainville, UCC (please note Christmas Fund in the memo) or donate online at: [www.christmasfund.org](http://www.christmasfund.org)

### CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

Join us for a Christmas Eve Candlelight Service with special music on **December 24<sup>th</sup>** at **5 p.m.**

### NAME TAGS

Please remember to continue to wear your name tag while Pastor Barry is with us so he can get to know you. Thank you!



## *2025 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 \$13.00 each.

Also, this year, participants will have the option to make a ***suggested donation of \$13.00*** 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 20<sup>th</sup>. These plants ***will not*** be noted in the Order of Service.

A portion of the proceeds of this year's Poinsettia Sale will go towards the ***Save Our Steeple Fund.***

Please complete the form on the back and return it to the Church Office with payment by ***Sunday, December 14<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.), Cash or Venmo 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.





## *2025 Poinsettia Order Form*

**Order Deadline: Sunday, Dec. 14, 2025**

**Price: \$13.00 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 \$13.00** 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 20<sup>th</sup>. I understand these will not be noted in the bulletin.

**Total # plants ordered** \_\_\_\_\_ **x \$13.00 = \$** \_\_\_\_\_

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

Send payment and completed forms to:  
The Congregation Church of Plainville, UCC  
130 West Main Street  
Plainville, CT 06062



**venmo**

Scan this code to pay