

WESTFIELD 101



HOW WE WESTFIELD

OUR MISSION

TO CARE FOR
THE HEART
OF KILLINGLY

OUR WORK

TO SHOW UP
WHENEVER &
HOWEVER WE CAN

OUR HOPE

IS IN
JESUS CHRIST
ALONE

CONTACT INFORMATION

OFFICE HOURS
TUES-THURS, 9A-12P
860.774.8438

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WESTFIELDUCC.ORG
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KIDS AT WESTFIELD

We believe that the most important thing we do each week is to teach our kids that God loves them and remind them that we do too. This year, we're launching Faith Formation programs for kiddos through age 12. In the meantime, we'll continue to offer a **staffed Sunday School** each week during worship. Our **nursery** is fully outfitted for our littlest Westfielders. Also on our radar is the addition of a youth program for our older kids.

Each week, Rev. Jonathan gathers our kids on the floor for a short lesson. Usually, it's filled with lots of questions and lots of answers--you can decide who offers which. We learn about sacraments, faith, and God's love.

Christian Education isn't just for kids! Our **Weekly Bible Study** meets on Tuesdays at 6 pm throughout the year, and we offer seasonal studies that fit a variety of schedules.





MEMBERSHIP

At Westfield, we have two types of membership: full and associate. Both entitle you to the same rights, responsibilities, and privileges in the life of the church. Either way, we'll call you to bring brownies for a funeral, ask you to help at church suppers, and help out with whatever we're up to. The difference is simple. When you become a full member, you're totally and completely ours. If you join as an associate member, you maintain membership both with us and another congregation. Most people join as full members. Associate membership is a great option for those who have a historic or familial tie with another congregation or for spouses of members who'd like to be aligned with our congregation but are part of another religious tradition or congregation.

If you would like to be an official part of the Westfield family, visit westfielducc.org/join and submit the form. Once you do, Rev. Jonathan will follow up with you to schedule a time to chat about joining.

Members can join any Sunday. You'll be asked two sets of questions: theological ones (Do you believe in Jesus?) & the essential questions (Are you in it with us?). Don't worry. Rev. Jon will give you the answers. No memorizing is necessary!

We expect all of our members to:

- Worship with us regularly
- Volunteer for our events
- Share our events online and by word-of-mouth
- Make an annual pledge of financial support
- Be kind, loving, and hopeful

HOW TO JOIN

→ GO TO WESTFIELDUCC.ORG/JOIN

→ FILL OUT THE FORM

→ REV. JONATHAN WILL REACH OUT

NEED A NAME TAG?

WESTFIELDUCC.ORG/NAME

WESTFIELD LINGO

Here are some phrases you'll hear at Westfield Church

EVERYONE, EVERYONE, EVERYONE

This is the quickest turn of phrase to underscore our commitment to welcoming, well, everyone, everyone, everyone.

AN OPT-IN CHURCH

There's always lots to do. You don't have to do all of it, but jumping in for some of it is a great way to meet folks.

A SINGING CHURCH

Singing together is a way for us to be--even if briefly--of one mind. We offer our assent, our worship, our prayer, and our solidarity through song.

A CHURCH THAT BLESSES

We bless the hell outta just about anything. The act of blessing reminds us of our own agency in God's grace and is an act of proclamation that the living God goes with us.

THE JON CHAPMAN TRANSLATION

Rev. Jon's version of *The Message*.

AGAIN! LOUDER! ONE MORE TIME!

Singing is a vital part of our life together. We don't just sing what's written. We sing from the heart and let the Spirit move.

FINGERS APART!

When we bless, we extend the hand of blessing today. We are careful to hold our fingers apart so as to not unintentionally re-enact the nazi salute.



WESTFIELD WAYS

We know two things to be true when a large group of people get together in a setting like our congregation. The first is that God is with us (for scripture tells us that wherever two or three are gathered, God is there) and that there will be many, **many** personalities to bring together.

As we've grown, we've boiled down all the different hopes and challenges we have encountered into seven **Westfield Ways**. The Westfield Ways remind us of how we have chosen to live together.



1. **Trust God:** In everything, we put our faith in God first.
2. **Work Hard:** We believe that God deserves our best.
3. **Ask Others:** We aren't in this alone. Others are journeying with us, and it's important we ask for their help and their input.
4. **Be Patient:** Everyone's got baggage. Be patient with yours and with others'.
5. **Have Fun:** Being together isn't a chore, it's a choice! Have fun with it!
6. **Don't Take It Personally:** You never know what battle someone is fighting. If something seems off, it probably is--and has little to do with you.
7. **Love First:** Always be gracious, kind, and loving in your interactions with each other.

WESTFIELD'S COMMUNITY COVENANT

HOW WE FIGHT. HOW WE FORGIVE. HOW WE FOLLOW JESUS.

In the spirit of Jesus, and with God's help, we will show respect and love in all we do as we journey together. As followers of Jesus Christ, we promise to respect each other at all times in the following ways:

HOW WE LIVE:

- We will approach all things in prayer
- We will strive to act with gentleness toward one another
- We are committed to being inconvenienced for the Gospel
- We seek to discover what is best for our church as a whole
- We will speak as individuals from our own personal experience, from "I" not "we" or "they"

HOW WE DISAGREE:

- We accept disagreement as normal & natural to community processes
- We will express criticism and negative feelings first to the person, not to others
- We will speak face-to-face, honestly and without rancor, avoiding triangulation and hearsay
- If we are unable to effectively communicate with each other, we will ask a third party to be present to assist us
- We will listen with an open and non-judgmental mind and try as hard to understand as to be understood

HOW WE MOVE FORWARD:

- We will hold each other accountable when our actions are unkind or our behavior ungracious
- We will strive to receive that accountability with grace, humility, and hope
- As forgiven people, we will choose to forgive one another and move forward
- We will support the final outcome of the decision-making process, trusting in the guidance of the Holy Spirit

Summing it all up, friends, I'd say you'll do best by filling your minds with things that are true, noble, reputable, authentic, compelling, gracious—the best not the worst, the beautiful not the ugly, things to praise not things to curse. Put into practice what you learned from me, Paul, what you saw, heard, realized. Do that and the God who makes everything work together will work you into his most excellent harmonies.



HOW WE MAKE DECISIONS

While we are no longer a Congregational Church (we're now a part of the United Church of Christ), we are still congregational. That is, the Congregational Church as a denomination no longer exists, but the congregational way of governing the church body does--and it's the method we use.

That means that as a member of our congregation, you're responsible for the well-being of our church. Each year, we hold two congregational meetings as stipulated by our by-laws. One is in January to set our budget for the upcoming year, and one is in June to review the last 12 months (July-June) and elect a new Board. This 20-member Board includes the pastor and takes care of the day-to-day happenings of the church, directs the staff to do their jobs, and keeps an eye on things on behalf of the entire congregation.

Sometimes, we'll call a special congregational meeting. Those are usually to update you on what's happening in the life of the church or to vote on an expenditure of more than \$5,000, which requires congregational approval. Unlike other denominations, our congregation owns the entirety of its assets, and as such, we all get a say in how in they're used.

The Board meets monthly (usually on the third Monday of the month at 7 pm). Those meetings are open to the public (unless there is a staff issue, at which point the Board goes into executive session) and are where the majority of church business is handled.

WE ARE IN THIS TOGETHER

When you join, Rev. Jonathan asks you two sets of questions. One is theological: do you believe in Jesus? Will you support the church? The other is practical. We call them the essential questions: Will you fight with us? Will you forgive us? Will you bring us casseroles when we're sick? What he is really asking is simple: will you be in this with us?

At Westfield, we don't always get it right. Sometimes, we mess up. Sometimes, we blow it. We will fail you. **But we always try.**

When you become an official part of the Westfield family, you're saying that you'll try with us. We know you'll mess up, that you'll blow it. And we promise to be grace-filled, merciful, and hopeful when it happens. **And we ask the same of you when we screw up.**

Our congregation is growing, and that growth is taking us to new frontiers--places we've never been before. That growth means we are capable of accomplishing that which we could only dream of a few years ago. It also means the way we reach those dreams is different than it might've been a few years ago. We're heading into the unknown, but we're doing it together. And by God's grace, it'll stay that way.



THE CONFETTI CHURCH

We believe there isn't enough joy in the world. We strive to be a beacon of joy. Our main tool? Confetti. We use confetti to celebrate just about anything from State Championships to the resurrection on Easter morning.

PLEDGING TREASURE

As a member of Westfield, we expect you to support our work with your time, talent, and treasure. That means we want you to show up, help out, and give what you can financially. We know things can be tight and that there are many worthwhile opportunities for you to dedicate your time and money beyond the church. But we also believe that our members get something here at Westfield that they can't get anywhere else--and that something is worth supporting.

We hold an annual **Stewardship Campaign** in the fall during which we'll ask you to submit a pledge. The pledge is simply the amount of money you think you'll be able to contribute in the coming year. This number is never used punitively. Rather, it helps us intentionally create a responsible budget that is at once reasonable and aspirational.

What is tithing? Tithing is the practice of giving 10% of income to the church. It's a biblical notion that helps set a goal for Christians in how much support they should give toward mission, ministry, and the furthering of God's realm. Today, we tend to use tithing and pledges interchangeably, although that was not the original meaning.

The **annual budget** is crafted by our Board in October and November and presented to the congregation at our annual Congregational Meeting for Finance held each January. Copies of the budget are available for your review in the office.



AN OPT-IN CHURCH

Volunteers are the heartbeat of Westfield. We like to say that Westfield is an opt-in congregation. That is, you can choose what it is you want to participate in throughout the year. There are dozens of ways to pitch in and help out throughout the year, each benefiting from a different set of gifts and graces. While you can choose any of the opportunities as the one to throw your support behind, we do ask that you help. It takes a village to keep this church running, and what you have to offer as a new member is just as important as that which our longtime members give.

HOW TO VOLUNTEER

1. LOOK OUT FOR OPPORTUNITIES
2. SHOW UP AND HELP!

HERE ARE SOME OPTIONS:

Do you like helping people live more fulfilling lives? Are you concerned for those who are in need? Are you interested in helping us meet the most vulnerable populations' basic needs? Contact Darlene French or Iris Mullaly of Missions & Outreach.

Can you cook? Do you believe in the mission of this church? Would you like us to keep doing what we're doing and endeavor to do even more? Contact Becky Ducat and JJ (Jennifer Johnson) of Stewardship & Fundraising.

Do you believe the most important thing we do each week is teaching kids about God's love for them? Do you want to ensure our kids know Jesus? Contact Holly Blade and Hailee Laroue of Christian Education.

Would you like to help lead worship? How about welcoming guests to our events or collecting the offering? Contact Denise Nault and Susan Waldron of Worship & Ministry.

Feel like helping with Coffee Hour? Want to help us build community by taking care of each other? Interested in extending hospitality throughout our congregation? Contact Deanna Shukis and Donna Bronwell of Fellowship & Development.

Willing to help us keep this old building up? Are you a gardener? Do you like odd jobs? Contact Earl Wild and Bob Mullen of Property.



TIME
SHOW UP
WHEN YOU CAN



TALENT
HELP OUT USING
YOUR SPECIAL GIFTS
& GRACES



TREASURE
GIVE WHAT YOU
CAN FINANCIALLY



**EVERYONE IS WELCOME.
SERIOUSLY.**

THE STORY OF GOD'S DOORS

In the summer of 2014, we asked for doors—six of them. "Any shape or size will do," we told the congregation. By September, they had all been painted--each a different color of the rainbow with "God's Doors are Open to All" emblazoned across the front. We debuted them at Killingly's Tomato Festival, leaning against the rusty railing alongside Reynolds Street facing the park. Within a few hours, they had garnered more social media attention than nearly anything else we'd done at Westfield.

Over the next few years, we became locally known as "the church with the doors." As public awareness of our congregation grew, so did the popularity of the doors. Soon, other congregations made their own set proclaiming God's welcome in this unique way. Before we knew it, God's Doors had turned into a nationwide movement inspired by Westfield's set.

In 2019, we formalized the God's Doors movement, launching godsdoors.org which highlights congregations across the nation that proudly show their own set of doors. We go to conference-wide events to share about them, spread the word, and encourage others to make their own set. In increasingly divided times, these doors have been a beacon of hope for many--not just in Killingly, but across the country.

OUR STATEMENT OF WELCOME

God created all things and called them good. Acknowledging the brokenness of the world and the ways the Church has condoned that brokenness through its own silence, we trust in God's abiding love and extravagant welcome. At Westfield, we welcome everyone as full participants in the life and sacraments of Christ's church. Everyone includes people of any age, economic status, gender identity, gender expression, marital status, race, sexual orientation, faith background, life experience, or physical, emotional, and mental capability.

Simply put: everyone, everyone, *everyone* is welcome. No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.

WILL YOU FIGHT WITH US? WILL YOU FORGIVE US? WILL YOU BRING US CASSEROLES WHEN WE'RE SICK?

**ARE YOU IN
IT WITH US?**

This is what the Essential Questions come down to: Are you in it with us? Do we expect you to actually make casseroles? Not necessarily. If cooking isn't your jam, that's totally OK! But we do expect our members to care for each other.

One way we do that is by getting together every six weeks or so and making batches of casseroles to be delivered to folks we know are having a hard time. They may not amount to a grocery cart full of food, but they are full of love. And those who receive them are reminded that they're not alone.



PASTORAL CARE

Do you ever feel like you're running from place to place, thing to thing? Lots of us do. And while being of a part of church means pitching in and helping out, it also means that you are part of a larger support system. When things get to be too much, we'll be here. When things are too sad, we'll be here. We're in it with you for the good and the bad, the triumphs and the disappointments.

As a growing congregation, one of the things we are learning to do better is how to take care of our own.

In the Dark Days, when we had 30 people a week, it was easy to track who was there and who was missing. News traveled fast. But today, with an average worship attendance of 90 or more, keeping up with folks is much harder than it used to be. To that end, we're here for you, come what may. **If you need care, please let us know. We cannot meet needs we don't know exist.**

Often, someone will say, "I would've chatted with Rev. Jonathan, but he's so busy and I didn't want to bother him."

Let's be plain: BOTHER HIM. He won't be annoyed. We can assure it because he's the one writing this. You can reach Rev. Jonathan at jon@westfielducc.org or by calling or texting 770-265-2171.

SUNDAY MORNINGS

Sunday is the chief time we're together as a congregation. Sunday morning is a weekly reset, a time when we collectively pause and focus together on God. We quiet the busyness of the week and listen for God's still-speaking voice. We accomplish a lot during our time together on Sunday: we sing, pray, read scripture, welcome new members, celebrate baptism, and share the feast. All of it is holy; all of it is important. We celebrate Holy Communion on the first and third Sundays of the month. We practice an open table--that means anyone who wishes to partake is able. Worship usually lasts about an hour and fifteen minutes. It's also a time we connect with each other. We suggest coming early (doors usually open around 9:30 am) and staying afterward to get to know other members of the church. Coffee Hour following worship is an excellent opportunity to meet others and help out with any number of projects happening in the life of the church.

This isn't the table of any one denomination. It's not even the table of Westfield Church. This is the table of Jesus Christ, and it is Jesus Christ who invites you to dine at it.

You don't have to have it all figured out. You don't have to buy it all, believe it all, understand it all, get it all.

*You just have to be hungry.
And you'll be fed here.*

*The Rev. Dr. Jonathan Chapman,
each time we share Communion*

SUNDAY TIMES

9:30 AM

DOORS OPEN

10 AM

WORSHIP BEGINS

OUR STAFF

The Rev. Dr. Jonathan Chapman,
Pastor & Teacher
jon@westfielducc.org;
770.265.2171 (call/text)
Days off: Friday/Saturday
Onsite: Tuesday-Thursday, 9 am-12 pm
Sundays until 11:30 am

Sue Theroux, Director of Music
sue@westfielducc.org;
860.942.6324 (call/text)
Onsite: Sundays, Choir Rehearsals

Kevin Williams, Director of Welcome
kevin@westfielducc.org;
860.209.1408 (call/text)
Onsite: Sundays only

Aimee Cooney, Financial Secretary
aimee@westfielducc.org

Michelle Plasse, Custodian
Kristin Gray, Faith Guide

AT A GLANCE

307

YEARS SINCE WE
WERE FOUNDED.

219

ACTIVE MEMBERS

583

PEOPLE IN OUR
CIRCLE OF CARE

82

PLEDGING UNITS

2023 ANNUAL BUDGET
\$263,947



CARING FOR THE HEART OF KILLINGLY & BEYOND

We don't have a mission statement--not a formal one at least. But we do have a phrase that colors everything we do. At Westfield, we are committed to **caring for** and **being** the heart of Killingly.

How do we care for the Heart of Killingly? Well, we show up. Again. Again. It's 11,000 Easter Eggs. It's jumping in and planning the town-wide Springtime event. It's countless free meals and showing up to open the doors on the coldest days and ordering more candles because we mowed through the last 400 at a town vigil for a child gone, and too soon.

While we are a community church, the truth is we don't just care for Killingly. Our membership draws from a 35-mile radius--we're not just a local church.

We are also committed to being the Heart of Killingly. That is, we strive to be--in some way--the moral compass for our community. Our community looks to Westfield as a guide in struggle and a light in darker days.

THE LOGO

Our logo highlights this commitment. Our iconic building reminds us to champion love first.

