

United Church of Ludlow Pastor's Report for 2025

Submitted by Pastor Michelle Fountain and approved at the Annual Meeting on January 25, 2026

As I look back on this year, the first word that comes to mind is gratitude. I have so much gratitude towards God and all of you for all that we as a church community have accomplished this year:

- We shared meaningful worship and coffee hour fellowship each Sunday.
- We voted to be an Open and Affirming Church welcoming all of God's people openly, especially those in the LGBTQIA community who have often been marginalized.
- We had an addition to our sign made with the UCC Rainbow Comma and the UMC Rainbow Flame to share our Open and Affirming/Reconciling status.
- We welcomed eight new members: Karen and Tim Williams, Chelsea Anderson, Matthew Bohn, Beth and Lou Krefski, Wendy North, and Roger Scully.
- We conducted the baptism of Scotlyn Anderson(my first!).
- I conducted my first wedding of Chelsea Anderson and Matthew Bohn.
- We set up a Disaster Hub with over 35 Disaster Buckets in part of our Sunday School Room and received news coverage for our efforts.
- We hosted a dinner to Fight World Hunger and raised over \$3000 to support local and world food needs.
- We hosted our first Vacation Bible School in many years for five children.
- We gave away over \$8000 in Mission Funds (supplemented by a portion of our Ring Out Love Campaign Funds) to support local, national, and global non-profit organizations that are helping people.
- We held our 3rd Annual Wild Church in Belmont at the home of Carol and Fra DeVine: connecting with the creator in creation.
- We held our 3rd Annual Holy Hilarity Sunday to look at the lighter side of faith and release the tensions from our bodies and minds.
- We helped several local families in their time of need.
- A group of us went to Handel's Messiah at Grace Congregational in Rutland and enjoyed dinner together afterwards.
- A group of us went caroling at the Gill Home and Gill Terrace and enjoyed a soup supper afterwards.
- We continue to be there for one another with food, transportation, love, prayers and support in times of need.
- We lead with love, continuing to work towards peace and justice in our community, nation, and world.

- We celebrated the lives of: Pearl Wu, Ginny Kottkamp, Polly Marin and Laura Caravatt. I am grateful to each and every one of you as we walk this faith journey together and look forward to seeing where God leads us next.

Peace and blessings,

Pastor Michelle