

WCTF – 1170 AM – Vernon, CT
Issues/Program List
“COMMUNITY BRIDGE”
A 5-Minute Program Heard Saturdays*
at 7:25 AM and 7:55 PM
October - December, 2023

DATE	ISSUE	GUEST AND DESCRIPTION
October 7, 2023	Pregnancy Support Needs in Northeast	<p><u>Host:</u> Jay Rudolph <u>Guest:</u> Gloria Schreiber, CEO, Life Center of Long Island, (Hicksville, NY). https://lifecenterli.org/ <u>Description:</u> The Life Center is a private, non-sectarian nonprofit organization. Whether it be a planned or unplanned pregnancy, men and women need a place that will support and help them in whatever their needs. With teen pregnancy and single-parent homes on the rise, it is essential that women have access to much needed support services. The goal of The Life Center is to empower pregnant and parenting women by providing them with the resources and emotional support needed to take care of themselves and their children and to enable them to make healthy decisions for their future. No one is turned away and there is no charge for their services. Skilled consultants are available to provide information, guidance, hope, and encouragement to men and women struggling with pregnancy.</p>
October 14, 2023	Help for the Food Insecure in New England	<p><u>Host:</u> Jay Rudolph <u>Guest:</u> Pastor Chuck Davis, Transitional Lead Pastor, Ridgeway Alliance Church, (White Plains, NY). https://www.ridgewaychurch.com/ and https://www.ridgewaychurch.com/food-pantry <u>Description:</u> Although Westchester is generally a wealthy area, wages remain low for the working poor and the cost of living continues to rise. A person’s most basic need is to be physically nourished and with fixed expenses like rent and childcare, groceries are often the first family expense to be cut. Ridgeway Church operates a food pantry at its White Plains campus. Serving people in the area with food is a very valuable service. Donations can be used to purchase food or food can be dropped off in plastic containers near the church. The church partners with Feeding Westchester to safely recover additional nutritious food from other sources. When speaking to people’s physical needs, it is an open door to their deepest need; to be spiritually alive in Christ.</p>
October 21, 2023	Hope for Hopeless Teens on East Coast	<p><u>Host:</u> Jay Rudolph <u>Guest:</u> Beria Gaxiola, Executive Director, and Steven Cruzado, Campus Life Staff, Long Island Youth for Christ, (Huntington Station, NY). https://liyfc.org/ <u>Description:</u> Youth for Christ (YFC) builds relationships with young people to introduce them to Christ and uncover God’s story</p>

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		<p>of hope in their lives. Young people are struggling with increased amounts of anxiety and hopelessness. Parents and teachers, those who are supposed to steer them in the right direction, are struggling themselves. YFC seeks young people who would not normally enter a church so they can make them life-long followers of Christ. Every day at community centers, schools, local hangouts and even detention centers, YFC staff and volunteers meet with young people who need Jesus. At the core of all YFC programs, they meet kids at pivotal moments to build relationships in which God can work and where hope can be born in lives.</p>
October 28, 2023	Homelessness Near Vernon	<p><u>Host:</u> Jay Rudolph <u>Guest:</u> Sharon Redfern, Executive Director, The Cornerstone Foundation, (Rockville, CT). https://www.cornerstone-cares.org/ <u>Description:</u> The Cornerstone Foundation’s goal is to provide people with housing. It’s a faith ministry with a mission to keep people safe, fed, housed and clothed. Its current programs include a community kitchen, three shelters, a food pantry, and a clothing bank. The founder of this organization was moved by the death of a homeless man and her pastor allowed her to use the church library as a shelter as a result. Cornerstone’s shelters are always full. People can’t afford to save enough money to get out of the shelter, so there’s no room for to take new people into the shelter. Therefore, there are more people living on the street; the lack of movement is a vicious circle.</p>

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December 2, 2023	Overcoming Addictions in the Northeast by Christ’s Power	<p><u>Host:</u> Jay Rudolph <u>Guest:</u> Matt Recker, Senior Pastor, Heritage Baptist Church (New York City, NY). https://www.hbcnyc.org/ <u>Description:</u> As a pastor in New York City for 40 years, Matt Recker of Heritage Baptist Church, located in the heart of Manhattan, has witnessed and ministered to hundreds of people with addictive behaviors. Life is filled with sorrows, losses and setbacks. Sometimes people lose hope. In that emptiness or void, they often turn from God and to an addictive behavior. Addiction, a great problem in New York City, is a life-dominating sin or stubborn habit that enslaves the person. While there are many ways for people to overcome addition, Pastor Recker believes God is our ultimate hope and cure, with the Bible sufficient to overcome addictions. The church offers Sunday services, men and women’s fellowships, as well as personal Bible studies. Whenever a person is tempted or drawn to an addictive behavior, one step towards Jesus Christ can bring deliverance through the power of his Word, biblical truths, and the power of the Holy Spirit.</p>
December 9, 2023	Helping the Needy in New England at Christmas	<p><u>Host:</u> Jay Rudolph <u>Guest:</u> Major Ricky Armor, Corps Officer, Salvation Army Peekskill Corps (Peekskill, NY). https://www.facebook.com/sapeekskillny <u>Description:</u> The struggle of poverty seems to be even more pronounced when the holidays come around and families don’t have the resources to purchase presents, let alone adequate food and clothing. The Salvation Army’s busiest time of year is Christmas when it provides toys for children and Christmas meals for families because of donations. The Salvation Army wouldn’t exist if it weren’t for their volunteers that are vigilant at the red kettles at Christmas time. While that money goes a long way, not enough money was donated last year. Sadly, some children didn’t receive a toy and some families seeking food had to be turned away. Donations to red kettles support crucial services all year long. The Salvation Army’s goal is that people are fed physically as well as spiritually. A soup kitchen provides warm meals throughout the week and a food pantry gives people a hand up so they can become self-sufficient. Nobody should go without a meal.</p>

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December 16, 2023	Grieving Loved Ones Near Vernon with Griefshare	<p><u>Host:</u> Jay Rudolph <u>Guest:</u> Beth Stafford, a Facilitator of GriefShare, Manchester Church of Christ (Manchester, CT). https://manchestercofc.org/griefshare/, https://www.griefshare.org/, and https://manchestercofc.org/ <u>Description:</u> One of the established Christian programs to address grief, an issue commonly experienced, is called Griefshare. Offered at Manchester Church of Christ in Manchester, CT, GriefShare is a faith-based support group ministry designed to help people heal from the pain of losing a friend or loved one to death. This type of loss is significant and may require outside help, as grief that isn't properly addressed can lead to depression and isolation. A GriefShare support group is a place where people understand the difficult emotions of grief. Everyone grieves differently and there is no time frame on grief. Through this free 13-week group, people discover what to expect in the days ahead. Griefshare can be repeated as often as needed. Since there are no neat, orderly stages of grief, people learn helpful ways of coping with grief, in all its unpredictability—and gain solid support each step of the way. People who've grieved for years start to feel better and develop some friends and community after GriefShare.</p>
December 23, 2023*		* <i>Community Bridge</i> was pre-empted by special Christmas programming.
December 30, 2023	Fighting Food Insecurity in the Northeast	<p><u>Host:</u> Jay Rudolph <u>Guest:</u> Almena Taylor, Missions Director & Executive Director, Open Arms Food Pantry, Hempstead Assembly of God Church (Hempstead, NY). https://www.hempsteadassembly.org/pantry-ministry <u>Description:</u> Open Arms Food Pantry (OAFP) seeks to be a tangible expression of the Christian concern for those in need. It seeks to give food to those who are hungry, and meet whatever tangible needs possible. Many Long Islanders face food insecurity and the OAFP seeks to serve God as they serve others in the community. The food pantry is available to all who are in need, which there is a surplus of now. Another problem is the language barrier for clients that do not speak English, so bilingual hosts help with the required forms and information. Donations of food, clothing, and baby items are greatly needed and appreciated.</p>

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October 7, 2023	U.S. Student Athletes Share Faith Today (25 minutes)	<p><u>Host:</u> Jenny Burkhiser <u>Guest:</u> Jeff Martin, Executive Vice President of Strategic Partnerships, <i>Fellowship of Christian Athletes</i>, (Kansas City, MO). www.fca.org; www.fieldsofffaith.com <u>Description:</u> The leading edge of Gen Z has turned 25 years of age, which means this cohort is starting to graduate from college, obtain jobs, vote, rent apartments—and walk into church. But Generation Z is the least religious generation in the United States: about 44% of Gen Z adults identify as atheist, agnostic, or have no specific religious affiliation, while only 35% identify as Christian. Notably, Generation Z Christians are “missionaries” to their own generation, with 82% of such teenagers reporting having shared about God in the last year. The Fellowship of Christian Athletes’ (FCA) vision is to see the world transformed by Jesus Christ through the influence of coaches and athletes growing in Christ and His Church. This year, FCA is hosting its <i>Fields of Faith</i> events, offering an athletic field as a neutral rallying point for a community of faith believers where side by side, student athletes invite, pray for, share with, and challenge their peers to read the Bible and follow Jesus Christ.</p>
October 14, 2023	Showing Care & Support for Your Pastor (25 minutes)	<p><u>Host:</u> Jenny Burkhiser <u>Guest:</u> Brian Kluth, National Spokesperson for the <i>Bless Your Pastor Movement</i>, (Golden, CO). www.blessyourpastor.org <u>Description:</u> Called shepherds of their flocks, those serving as pastors to care for the people of God have a high calling that comes with many demands: from church service preparations and attending to the numerous spiritual needs of the congregation to comforting and serving those who have lost loved ones. Sadly, the number of pastors seriously considering quitting full-time ministry has risen dramatically in recent years, citing stress of the job, loneliness and isolation, current political divisions, family problems, and financial strain, as many churches have limited budgets and are often not able to compensate their pastors or church staff very well. That’s why the <i>Bless Your Pastor Movement</i> was created to mobilize Christians and churches everywhere to show and share God’s love for their pastors and church staff even as churches work toward better compensation.</p>

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October 21, 2023	Comforting Israel Crisis-Impacted (25 minutes)	<p>To better love and care for pastors and church staff, go to BlessYourPastor.org to give your pastor various blessings.</p> <p><u>Host:</u> Jenny Burkhiser <u>Guest:</u> David Parsons, Vice President & Senior International Spokesman, <i>International Christian Embassy Jerusalem</i>, (Jerusalem, Israel). https://icejusa.org/ <u>Description:</u> Deadly terrorist attacks in Israel have resulted in a tragic and volatile situation. As Israel goes through its greatest trial in modern history, how can we respond biblically, praying for the peace of Jerusalem? The International Christian Embassy Jerusalem was established in 1980 in recognition of the biblical significance of all of Jerusalem and its unique connection with the Jewish people. Their goal is to stand with Israel in support and friendship, equip and teach the worldwide church regarding God's purposes with Israel and the nations of the Middle East, be an active voice of reconciliation between Jews, Christians, and Arabs, and support the churches and congregations in the Holy Land. With so many Jewish people living in unthinkable conditions right now in Israel and around the world — including innocent children, families, and elderly Holocaust survivors — generous donations can help The Fellowship provide basic necessities like food, medical assistance, and shelter as well as safety and security provisions. Americans with Jewish neighbors were encouraged to support their local synagogues and Jewish neighbors in these difficult times with a Christian testimony of comfort and love.</p>
October 28, 2023	Supporting Mental Health, Preserving Christian Music, & Hymns (25 minutes)	<p><u>Host:</u> Jenny Burkhiser <u>Guest:</u> Ron Maxwell, Founder of the <i>Christian Music Preservation Project</i>, (St. Petersburg, FL). www.musicprez.org <u>Description:</u> Martin Luther was facing giants. What did he do for courage? He wrote the hymn, “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God” with the timely words, “<i>Christ Jesus...must win the battle.</i>” Has God ever encouraged your heart with a special worship song at just the right time? Ron shared how Christian music is the best music in the world, supporting our faith, mental health, and overall health. That’s why they are working to preserve worship songs for future generations. There are many reasons to preserve the most powerful music in the world: from the deterioration of media, loss of</p>

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		digital devices and hard drives due to failures, accidents, thefts and fires, to increasing censorship, the threat to Christian music is real. The Music Preservation Project values creating a plan that will provide access to the most powerful music in the world, now and for future generations. Prayers, ideas, involvement and financial support for this historic Project were welcomed to help preserve, promote & provide the music worth saving!
November 4, 2023	The US Gas Market and Conservation: Lowering Pump Pain (25 minutes)	<u>Host:</u> Jenny Burkhiser <u>Guest:</u> Scott Angelle, former U.S. Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement Director and Founder of USA Energy Workers, (Lafayette, LA). https://usaenergyworkers.com/ <u>Description:</u> Thanksgiving and Christmas are supposed to be times of gratitude and joy—not stress and anxiety. However, inflation-battered drivers will have to dig deeper into their wallets to afford the cost of this year’s holiday road trips with friends and family as gasoline prices are on the rise yet again and the cost of nearly everything is up thanks to increasing inflation. With the average price for a gallon of gasoline is \$3.82 – 60 cents higher than at the beginning of 2023, how can one best plan ahead to enjoy creating memories with loved ones without the needless worry? Tips to conserve fuel include planning for trips, pack light, do not needlessly idle a vehicle with it running, clean or replace the air filter, and limit high speed, starts and stops. Scott maintained that there is a need for more American-produced and generated energy, with superior climate and environmental metrics as derived from USA Energy Workers. His perspective was to balance the 3Es: Environment, Energy, and Economy, encouraging American energy policy that includes traditional and renewable energy resources that support US energy workers, Americans in poverty and on fixed incomes, and the economy.
November 11, 2023	Saving Lives, Restoring Families, & Changing Legacies of American Veterans through Christ (~40 minutes)	<u>Host:</u> Jenny Burkhiser <u>Guest:</u> Brandon Kunath, American Combat Veteran and National Programs Director, Mighty Oaks Foundation, (Magnolia, TX). https://www.mightyoaksprograms.org/ <u>Description:</u> Jesus Christ can change a legacy forever—no matter how broken. Branden Kunath shared his own story and how to be a part of changing legacies for veterans—lives saved and families restored as they become “mighty oaks” rooted in God’s Word.

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		<p>Post-traumatic stress can occur following a life-threatening event like military combat, natural disasters, terrorist incidents, serious accidents, or violent personal assaults. People who suffer from PTSD often suffer from nightmares, flashbacks, difficulty sleeping, and feeling emotionally numb. Members of the military exposed to war/combat and other groups at high risk for trauma exposure are at risk for developing PTSD. Among veterans returning from the current wars in Iraq/Afghanistan, PTSD and mild to moderate traumatic brain injury (TBI) are often linked and their symptoms may overlap. The physical changes that take place in the body and brain following trauma are beginning to be understood, but most treatments for these changes are still experimental. This makes it difficult to “hold on” until hope can be found for many veterans. The Mighty Oaks Foundation is committed to serving the brokenhearted by providing intensive peer-based discipleship through a series of programs, outpost meetings, and speaking events, hosting Mighty Oaks Warrior Programs for men and women, as well as Marriage Advance Programs. The Warriors who attend are fully sponsored for training, meals, and lodging needs to ensure that upon arrival to the ranch, each Warrior is focused solely on recovery and identifying purpose going forward.</p>
November 18, 2023	<p style="text-align: center;">Building a Family Economy for Strong Households, Communities, Society, & Earth Stewardship (35 minutes)</p>	<p><u>Host:</u> Jenny Burkhiser <u>Guest:</u> Ray Simmons, Pastor of Ascension Reformed Church and Author of <i>The Confessional County: Realizing the Kingdom through Local Christendom</i>, (Montgomery County, IA). https://gatherandgrow.us/ <u>Description:</u> As we are celebrating Thanksgiving in a few weeks, we will be remembering the Pilgrims as well as revisiting the stories and history of our American forefathers and families. Today, moral values and families are declining, even as record inflation, homelessness and crimes such as flagrant shoplifting are seen. The Scripture notes that the home is the focus of discipleship and fathers are key to this, however, about 41% of children in America are born without present fathers. Division in the family and lack of spiriting maturity shows a struggling community, along with children showing a consumer mindset or the lack of understanding the biblical laws of harvest. The Family</p>

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		<p>Economy was defined as productive families that are unified and complementary, practically providing for the needs of the family and producing things as distinguished from the individual or corporate economy where the family is fragmented and each goes to his own place through the day. Children are part of serving and helping in age-appropriate ways. The husband and wife work together in a family economy per Genesis 2. While the Industrial Revolution had many positives, it moved fathers from the home during the most productive hours of the day and machinery took the place of the family helping each other. Deuteronomy 6 is a very good picture of the blessings of being in a covenant community, family, or church. For example, Pastor Simmons has built a family economy through a construction business; while he makes bids for jobs, his sons perform the construction and his daughter is responsible for accounting. Pastor Simmons advised to start your own family economy to be self-sufficient, including family devotions in the evenings for family discipleship. Grandparents can teach their grandchildren and multigenerational family unit is biblical and early puritans were interdependent and formed a microeconomy. He shared how one family has opened a store with the mother and kids homeschooling in the back while the father maintains the store. There are practical steps that parents and even grandparents can take now to build a successful and God honoring “family economy” model of the pilgrims and puritans – including bee keeping, raising chickens, and growing your garden.</p>
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December 2, 2023*		* <i>Community Bridge</i> was pre-empted by special Christmas programming.
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October 2, 2023	Wedding Day Charity Rescue	In a heartwarming display of kindness, a passerby came to the rescue of a bride whose wedding day nearly took a turn for the worse when her car broke down enroute to the church.
October 3, 2023	Food Insecurity	A group of students in St. Petersburg, Florida, is helping other students with food insecurity and in need through a local nonprofit organization.
October 4, 2023	Kindness of Healthcare Heroes	A high school senior, who wasn't able to attend her homecoming dance due to a recent brain surgery, received a heartwarming surprise when the hospital staff brought the homecoming festivities to her.
October 6, 2023	Saving Pet's Lives	A postal worker in Georgia has emerged as an unexpected hero by saving the life of a dog who was bitten by a venomous snake.
October 9, 2023	Honoring Heroes	Every day, folks across the country remember the heroes who gave their lives to save ours, including one woman who has found a way to honor them through her love for cooking.
October 10, 2023	Autism Awareness	A thrift store in Tampa, Florida, is giving back in a big way selling secondhand goods to help those living with autism.
October 12, 2023	Acts of Goodwill	When a thrift store manager in California found a pile of cash in donated clothes, he tracked down the owner and returned the money.
October 13, 2023	Philanthropy	A billionaire who managed to give away his entire fortune during his lifetime passed away this weekend at the age of 92 years of age.
October 16, 2023	Church Food Pantry	A megachurch in Nebraska plans to build a food pantry and an auto repair shop to serve low-income community members.
October 17, 2023	Free Haircuts	A barber on Chicago's Southside has spent the last 20 years giving out free haircuts to anyone in need, from star athletes to military brass!
October 20, 2023	Supporting Israel	Christians from around the quad cities of Iowa and Illinois joined together for an evening to honor Israel.

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October 23, 2023	Celebrating Life	A man from Houston who was given just two months to live is crediting God for keeping him alive.
October 25, 2023	Road Safety	A small town is putting a stop to speeding by planting thousands of flowers, which have caused drivers to slow down as they pass by!
November 1, 2023	Repairing Homes for People in Need	Veterans in St. Louis recently received free home repairs from a group of volunteers who say it’s their way of saying “thank you” to those who have served the country.
November 2, 2023	Anti-Choking Devices	A family in Lowell, Massachusetts, has donated hundreds of anti-choking devices to schools in their community.
November 4, 2023	Repurposing Furniture for Needy	A Christian teacher is building custom furniture items out of his garage in Iowa... and it’s all for a good cause!
November 6, 2023	Overcoming Disabilities	A ten-year-old quadruple amputee says he’s on top of the world after summiting a 650-foot mountain to raise money for other children with disabilities.
November 10, 2023	Flagpole for Freedom	One family is making it their mission to remember veterans and their sacrifices by creating the world’s tallest flagpole and building a park to honor every fallen soldier.
November 11, 2023	Creating Hiring Opportunities	A brownie bakery outside New York City is creating sweet new hiring opportunities for all who have a passion for work!
November 13, 2023	Dental Care for Veterans	A Houston dentist met a U.S. Air Force veteran who was struggling with dental issues and decided to surprise him with \$15,000 worth of dental work.
November 16, 2023	Operation Christmas Child	Volunteers across the country are unrolling the packing tape this week as Operation Christmas Child has officially opened up their drop-off centers for <i>National Shoebox Collections Week!</i>

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November 21, 2023	Supporting Local Businesses	A business owner in Portland recently suffered a string of break-ins at his establishment, but amidst all the challenges, a stranger's selfless act sparked a chain of generosity in the community.
November 27, 2023	Ending Youth Crime	A man tracked down the teenager who mugged his nephew. Rather than hand him in to the police, he spoke to the teenager about turning his life around.
November 28, 2023	Giving Tuesday	Following two of the biggest shopping days of the year, Black Friday and Cyber Monday, <i>Giving Tuesday</i> celebrates generously giving back.
December 1, 2023	Food Bank Donation	Last week, an anonymous donor stepped forward with an extraordinary \$800,000 donation, completely covering the expenses associated with the relocation of a Food Bank in Auburn, Washington!
December 4, 2023	Spreading Christmas Cheer	Every Christmas, a woman in Philadelphia hands out hundreds of stuffed animals...not for kids, but for seniors in need of some Christmas cheer.
December 11, 2023	Sharing Christmas Hope	A family in Georgia has found a creative way to brighten Christmas for many while helping others all year long.
December 12, 2023	Tennessee Disaster Relief	As residents of Middle Tennessee continue to clean up following the devastating tornadoes that tore through the area on Saturday, relief organizations like <i>Convoy of Hope</i> have been on the ground serving the residents with food, water, and other necessities.
December 13, 2023	Christmas Sock Giveaway	Thanks to a generous teenager, there are hundreds of people across the nation getting socks for Christmas—they couldn't be happier about it.
December 14, 2023	Toys For Joy	Loud cheering amid encouraging words of prayer could be heard as over 2,500 families and children received donated toys and boxes filled with groceries during a California church's drive-through distribution event, <i>Toys for Joy</i> .

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December 15, 2023	Homes for Pets	A 9-year-old girl from Colorado has turned her personal loss into an inspiring mission to bring joy to pets without homes!
December 18, 2023	Giving Back to Veterans at Christmas	Christmas is a time when people give thanks and help their fellow neighbors. Military families are no exception. For the many American veterans who need a helping hand during the holiday, <i>Code of Vets</i> is there to step in.
December 19, 2023	Celebrating First Responders	First responders always deserve our gratitude, but especially during the holidays, and the <i>Tunnels to Towers Foundation</i> is helping do just that!
December 20, 2023	Feeding School Children at Christmas	A North Carolina teacher said with the help of donations from the community, she was able to buy \$100,000 worth of groceries at Costco to help feed 5,000 students in Durham Public Schools through the holiday break.
December 22, 2023	Giving Christmas to Homeless Charity	Christmas is the season of giving AND giving back! A former homeless man has decorated his home with more than 16,000 Christmas lights to raise money for a local homeless charity.