



## **THE CIRCLE CHURCH NEWS**

**September 2022**

North Madison Congregational Church  
United Church of Christ  
1271 Durham Road  
Madison, CT 06443

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## PASTOR'S NOTE

You are a love song  
Beauty set to music  
You are a love song  
I have chosen you.  
~Theresa Hucal

What would it be like if we believed that we truly were God's love song?  
How would it change us and our engagement of the people, events, and world around us?

We talk a lot in church about love; God's love, our belovedness as God's children, our call and commandment to love one another.... Our scriptural heritage, too, spends a lot of time reflecting on love in one form or another—and for good reason. Mature spirituality is predicated on our capacity to perceive, receive, and offer love; and trusting our own intrinsic lovability is extraordinarily challenging for most of us. It's a conundrum!

I was honored to lead a day of retreat for the St. Martin de Porres faculty and staff last week as they prepared for the academic year ahead. As I prepared my thoughts for the day, I re-encountered an old beloved spiritual resource: Joyce Rupp's The Cup of Our Life. She suggests a daily practice of finding a cup—any cup will do; try your morning tea/coffee/kombucha cup—and, holding that cup in your hands, she invites us to give this simple spiritual practice a try:

Notice [the cup's] style, shape, color, size.  
Be conscious of yourself as a cup held in God's hands.  
Accept your uniqueness and your goodness.  
Thank God for creating you as you are.

“Ask God to help you to see yourself as a song of love, a cup full of goodness, bringing life to others.” And reflect on the words of the Prophet Isaiah:

I have called you by name,  
You are mine...  
You are precious in my sight,  
and honored, and I love you. (Isa 43:1-4)

As fall schedules come into full swing this month, the increasing pace can feel overwhelming. There is so much in the world over which we have no control, we can begin to fall prey to the stressors and challenges that come with our contemporary lives in this moment in history. When you feel yourself snapping back when you might have responded instead with patience, or bowing under when you wish you might hold forth more steadily, consider God's invitation to remember your true identity: Love. Try grabbing yourself a cup, and gazing into it, and seeing your own soul: precious, beautiful, loved, enough. Drink it in! You are a love song. God has chosen you. I hope it helps. If you give it a try, I'd love to know.

Love & Blessings on the Journey!  
Heather



**NORTH MADISON  
CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**

INVITES YOU TO

# WELCOME BACK SUNDAY

WITH A  
**BLESSING OF  
FIRST RESPONDERS,  
STUDENTS, & TEACHERS**



**10:00 am SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 11**

1271 Durham Rd. Madison  
203.421.3241

**Bring a chair,  
a dish to share,  
& your student,  
teacher, or first  
responder for  
outdoor worship  
& a potluck picnic!**



**Visit with  
firetrucks,  
police cars,  
ambulance, &  
Nomad & Madison  
first responders  
up close!**

## COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND FUNDRAISERS



**Mission Ministry Team:** Mission Ministry Team. This summer the Garden Outreach Ministry helped member Holly Francis with her garden, wrapped up a successful collection for college-bound students from St. Martin de Porres Academy and continued to offer in-person and Zoom Yoga all summer. Check out the “Get Involved/Stay Connected” section of this newsletter to learn about upcoming opportunities to support our Missions including 2 special Sundays, one presented by our Prison Ministry on September 18 and our Missions Sunday on September 25<sup>th</sup>. This team supports 9 ministries led by 8 Champions: Lyn Boling, Heather Crawford, Holly Francis, Roberta Hanlon, Tom Lauher, Karen Miller, Nora Price and Janice Wolf.



**Caring for Creation Ministry:** Garden Outreach: We helped Holly Francis with a summer cleanup in her gardens and met the new bees and their hives, which prevented us from venturing into one of the gardens. We also welcomed a new team member, Jeri Mann, who has been one of our long-time Yoga students and neighbor of the Haffs! Roberta Hanlon, Champion, Garden Outreach Ministry



**Saint Martin de Porres Academy:** Thank you, NMCC congregation! You donated 55 items to Saint Martin de Porres graduating seniors. Some of the items were comforters, sheet sets, kettles, laundry bags, detergent, shower caddies, lamps, fans, everything to stock a desk and some college T shirts. Also, a donation of \$250.00 plus dollars for needed items. You have helped these new college students start their career! Your support, over many years, is very appreciated! Karen Miller, Champion, St. Martin de Porres Academy



**Community Yoga:** Our current Monday in-person and on Zoom Yoga series are in progress through September 15. Our Thursday Zoom series runs through September 18. Contact Roberta Hanlon robertahanlon@msn.com or 203-500-8311. Visit our website for more details: <https://northmadisoncc.org/calendar-events/yoga/> Roberta Hanlon, Yoga Champion

**Mission Ministry Team:** If you are interested in starting a new Outreach Ministry, the Mission Ministry Team can help you with ideas, best practices, funding and resources to help you design and engage our NMCC community in supporting your ministry. Contact Roberta Hanlon robertahanlon@msn.com if you would like to learn more.

## GET INVOLVED / STAY CONNECTED



There are many ways to be involved in NMCC’s vibrant community—serving in a missional outreach ministry, mentoring and teaching our children, joining in musicmaking or worship planning, helping out around the church building, singing in the choir, sharing the gifts God has given you, learning new skills from others, enjoying the fellowship of working on projects together. Visit our [Get Involved](#) page for opportunities at northmadisoncc.org.



**Sunday Worship @ 10:00 am Resumes:** Join us for Family Worship and Communion Sunday on September 4. We will resume our 10:00 am start time.



**Bible Study:** Bible study will resume on Tuesdays at 3:30 pm starting September 13. If you'd like to join, please email Heather at [pastor@northmadisoncc.org](mailto:pastor@northmadisoncc.org). You can find the scripture reading and Zoom link in the weekly all church email.



**Like to Sing?????** Fall is upon us — and it is time for CHOIR to start up again!!

The NMCC Choir is open to ALL who enjoy singing — we always warmly welcome new members! All you need is a love of music, enthusiasm and an hour on Thursday nights for rehearsal ... Think you might like to give singing a try??? COME ON DOWN — TO OUR FIRST REHEARSAL September 15!!!

Homecoming Sunday is on September 11 and it promises to be an exciting service — the in-gathering of our congregation PLUS a wonderful celebration of/with Madison's first responders — AND a picnic! CHOIR WILL SING — rehearsing at 9:15.

First regular rehearsal? Thursday, September 15 at 7:15 pm — arrive, get your music, be ready to start rehearsing at 7:20 pm.

Where? Church Sanctuary — masked in our KN95's.

Looking forward to seeing familiar faces again — and to welcoming new ones! SEE YOU AT CHURCH!!



**Guest Minister and Luncheon:** Please join us on Sunday, September 18, 2022, at 10:00 as we welcome our guest minister and speaker Rev. Dr. Dietra Wise Baker. Rev. Baker has been invited to preach and

teach on behalf of our Prison Ministry. "Remember those in prison as if you were their fellow prisoners, and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering." (Hebrews 13:3)

Rev. Dietra Wise Baker is the Assistant Professor of Community Engagement and Contextual Education, Director Contextual Education at Eden Theological Seminary in St. Louis and is a dynamic preacher and speaker. Dr. Baker is certified anti-racism trainer for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), and a trainer of faith-based community organizing in the Gamaliel network. Dr. Dietra teaches Church Planting, Youth Ministry, Preaching, Faith Community Organizing, Anti-Racism/Anti-Caste, Vocational Resilience and Formation. Rev. Dr. Dietra built in collaboration MCU's Break the Pipeline Campaign dismantling the school to prison pipeline in Missouri. Dr. Dietra is a respected trainer and community leader who often consults and collaborates around her sustained work in community organizing, youth justice, detention/prison/jail, and faith justice movements. Like many in St. Louis Rev. Dietra was deeply engaged in the Ferguson Uprising through Metropolitan Congregations United Clergy Caucus, organizing churches and leaders in rapid response to front line leaders protesting in the streets. The morning sermon will reflect on the moral and religious aspect of ministering to those in prison. What would Jesus do?



Following the morning service, please plan on having fellowship with us during a pot-luck meal and conversation on justice for prison ministry and faith-based community engagement. How do we make this justice real today?

*You can feel it deep down: you sense God calling our communities to more. Our communities and neighbors are hurting; we want to make changes, but we are not sure what to do. We have tried charity; we have tried mission--but we see little change in our neighborhoods and communities. God has shared with our faith communities a strong vision where the stranger is welcomed, the orphan is clothed, and the prisoner is set free. A community with dignity and equity: the beloved community. But how do we move toward that community? Faith organizing is one faithful path.*

Sign up today to attend the luncheon, [sign-up genius link](#) (or contact the church office at [office@northmadisoncc.org](mailto:office@northmadisoncc.org)) Please indicate your name and the number attending. Final RSVPs due by Monday, September 12. Good will donations are welcomed! We really look forward to you joining us. The day promises to be spiritual and exciting, so please don't miss this special event!



**Harvest Dinner Planning Meeting:** We will be meeting September 18 following worship in Fellowship Hall to make plans for our annual Harvest Dinner that will be held on Saturday, November 5. Please plan to join us and direct any questions to Eileen McCann, [econdon949@aol.com](mailto:econdon949@aol.com). Thanks!



**MAD for Trees:** You are invited to plant and care for a tree in your yard as part of Madison's MAD for Trees campaign to support planting 200 native CT trees by Madison's 200<sup>th</sup> year anniversary in May 2026. The trees are **free**, and will be available for pick up at NMCC on Sunday, Sept. 18<sup>th</sup> from 10:00-12:00 pm (time to be confirmed). All that you need to do is go to Mad for Trees website, select your tree type, and fill out the form that pledges your intention to care for your new tree. Make sure to write **"Pick up at NMCC Sunday"** on your form.

You can find the form here: <https://mad4trees.org/tree-selection>

MAD for Trees was formed to raise support for the planting of 200 native trees for the town's 200th anniversary of its incorporation.

By planting these trees, MAD for Trees hopes to:

- Raise awareness of the Climate Crisis and its impact on Madison.
- Create a positive civic campaign celebrating our Town's history.
- Provide collaborative projects for residents, businesses & local organizations to come together to sustainably beautify our town.
- Encourage a future of environmental stewardship in Madison.



**Book Discussion Group:** We will be reading *The Master Plan* by Chris Wilson (My Journey From Life In Prison To A Life Of Purpose). Some of us heard Chris speak via Zoom as part of a program during MLK weekend. We will meet on September 20 at 5:00 pm, hopefully outdoors on the grassy knoll. Questions, contact Peter Meier, [peterm190@yahoo.com](mailto:peterm190@yahoo.com).



**SMPA is in Need of Volunteers:** If you have a skill you are willing to share with middle school students, such as: knitting, drama, gardening, sports, cooking, scouting, computers, music, art or are a Ms. or Mr. fix it, there is a place for you.

SMPA also need 2 dorm size refrigerators and 1 medium refrigerator, new or used, to replace ones that are broken. Contact [info@saintmartinacademy.org](mailto:info@saintmartinacademy.org)

Please stop by the SMPA information table in the community room at NMCC on September 25, Mission Sunday. Also, please call me to learn more about SMPA and their mission to provide each child with a promising start in life. 203-915-2989, Karen Miller, Champion



**CT Quest for Peace Collection:** Karen Miller is looking for a shoreline site, where someone could accept donations year-round. Her garage has limited space and is very damp in the Summer.

There are 2 locations that are available year-round. One is the Quest for Peace warehouse in Bridgeport at 394 Main Street. They are open 10am to 2 pm on Saturdays and Bill Evans home at 11 West Fair Drive in Westport. The garage is always unlocked and items can be dropped off at ANY TIME.

Karen will start collecting items September 19 - October 24. You can drop them off any time. Leave them inside the garage. The red door will be unlocked or call Karen if you need help unloading or for a pick up, 203-915-2989.

**Food Pantry Ministry:** The first Sunday each month we will collect Food for Change during the offering for the Clinton food pantry. In addition, Clinton needs pasta and cereal donations, while we'll continue collection tuna and canned diced tomatoes and chili. Thank you for your support! Holly Francis, Food Pantry Ministry Champion



**Community Yoga:** Our next 5-week Yoga series begins Monday, September 19 and runs through October 17 and is offered both in-person in Fellowship Hall as well broadcast via Zoom at 6:00 pm. Masks are optional. Our next Thursday series begins September 22 and runs through October 20<sup>th</sup> on Zoom only at 6:00 pm. Both series cost \$35 for the 5 classes. Please bring or mail a check to NMCC, 1271 Durham Road, Madison, CT 06443. Try your first class for free. Contact Roberta Hanlon [robertahanlon@msn.com](mailto:robertahanlon@msn.com) or 203-500-8311 with questions or to register. Visit our website for more details: <https://northmadisoncc.org/calendar-events/yoga/>  
Roberta Hanlon, Yoga Champion



**Missions and Carols - September 25 at 10:00 am Worship:** *"Then those who are righteous will reply to him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you a drink? <sup>38</sup> When did we see you as a stranger and welcome you, or naked and give you clothes to wear? <sup>39</sup> When did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?'"*

*"Then the sovereign will reply to them, 'I assure you that when you have done it for one of the least of these siblings of mine, you have done it for me.' (Matthew 25:37-40)*

NMCC is a service-loving congregation, and our missional partnerships are rich and meaningful. Join us in worship on September 25th to celebrate with our Mission Champions and learn about our mission partners and all the ways we minister together with our neighbors to help offer a cool drink of water to those around us who are thirsty. We will worship "Lessons and Carols"-style, with music and brief, spirited presentations. After worship, please stay to visit with our Champions at their "tables" in Fellowship Hall to add yourself to their projects or just to learn more. If you have friends who wish they could find a church that "walks the talk" and makes a difference in the community, invite them to join you at church today!



**Madison Pride Event - Hold the Date:** NMCC will be participating in the Madison Pride community event on October 9 from 12:00 – 4:00 pm. Please save the date, and keep an eye out for further details.



**Crafters Wanted for NMCC's 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Holiday Craft Fair** December 3 from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm. To apply visit our web site: <http://northmadisoncc.org/calendar-events/craft-fair/> and download an application or call 203-421-3241 for more information.



**Grocery Cards:** Please help support our church and community! Visit our team members Sundays after worship in fellowship hall and buy grocery cards. And thank you all for your purchases to date! For more information about this program or to be added to the schedule to sell cards after worship, please see Calvin Price, or email him at [wildwood9@msn.com](mailto:wildwood9@msn.com).



**Tom Lauher Needs Our Help:** As many of you know, Tom Lauher is very ill with Chronic Kidney Disease. Tom's best hope for survival is to receive an organ donation from a living donor. A team of Tom's champions has launched a social media campaign to get the word out. Please click here to see his story and learn how you can help by spreading the message to family, friends and acquaintances: <https://www.thedonorapp.com/tomlauher/em/p/a>



If you would like to help out in another way, the link to Tom's story and GoFundMe page is <https://gofund.me/b2e5801d>.

## IN THE COMMUNITY



Join the Madison Land Trust for a Bird and Insect Walk with Carol Lemmon and Mike DiGiorgio at Rettich Preserve on September 10.

**Madison Land Conservation Trust: Birds and Insects Walk at Rettich Preserve, Saturday, September 10, 9:00 am:** Former state entomologist Carol Lemmon and wildlife artist Mike DiGiorgio will lead a nature walk at Rettich Preserve, Pointing out plants, insects and birds along the way. Be prepared for walking in fields and meadows, and along a woodland trail. No dogs please. Meet by the parking area at 274 River Road.



**18<sup>th</sup> Annual Roslyn Young Memorial Concert:** "Tutti Vivaldi"- Sunday, October 9<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 pm, at First Congregational Church of Madison. The concert, which is part of the Music at the Meetinghouse series, will feature the New York-based early music ensemble, Circle of Friends, consisting of flute, 2 violins, viola, cello and harpsichord. There will be a reception following the concert. Tickets are \$20 at the door, under 18 free. Roslyn Young, sister of Linda Young, grew up in Guilford, performing often on violin and viola at the Connecticut Early Music Festival, as well as in New York, and throughout the United States and Europe.

## IN THE NEWS AND NOTEWORTHY



**NMCC and Members in the News:** We often spot an article in the local paper, *Patch* or in other news outlets, and have been posting them on our bulletin board and our Facebook page. We'd like to expand the coverage and add a feature about this type of news in the monthly newsletter. Please send or drop off the news articles you find to the office at [office@northmadisoncc.org](mailto:office@northmadisoncc.org) and we'll be sure to include them.

**Elizabeth McCann** was featured in a report on News8 about saving Deer Lake. See the report here, <https://www.wtnh.com/news/nonprofit-working-out-deal-with-boy-scouts-to-buy-deer-lake/>

**Ann and Bill Clemmons** retire from SMPA:



*Summer 2022*



Dear Friend,

Volunteers are vital to our holistic approach. Not only do they pass on their talents, hobbies, skills and wisdom to our students, they help us keep the doors open and the lights on.

Husband and wife duo of Bill and Ann Clemmons have volunteered at SMPA for well over a decade. We are sad to share that Bill and Ann are retiring after 10+ years of volunteer service at SMPA. Their final concert was this past June. What a gift they both have been, never accepting a dime for the incredible gift of music education that they have bestowed upon our school and for the knowledge and passion for music they have instilled in so many of our students.

Under their incredible leadership and dedication, our small band program grew to include a variety of instruments, a full string orchestra and, at times, even a jazz band. Our students attended Band Competitions and earned music scholarships. They went on to join their high school orchestras, march in their college bands and even start their own music

groups. Bill and Ann also graciously stayed on and shepherded the music program through the pandemic - ensuring that our kids did not lose their connection to music at a time when most of our enrichment activities were shut down. We couldn't be more appreciative of their contributions.

Volunteers like Ann and Bill are the lifeblood of our school. If you have an interest or talent you would be willing to share with our students, we'd love to speak with you.

Allison Rivera

President



## Office, Board and Committee Contacts

<b>Senior Minister:</b> Rev. Dr. Heather Arcovitch	203-421-3241
<b>Office:</b> Jackie Fix, Office Manager; TBD, Bookkeeper	203-421-3241
<b>Minister of Music:</b> Linda Juliani	860-399-0210
<b>Choir Director:</b> Bill Clemmons	203-421-3484
<b>Minister of Faith Formation &amp; Youth Ministry:</b> Sue Timony-Hall	203-843-6206
<b>Property Manager:</b> Tom Lauher	203-530-7467
<b>Circle Nursery School:</b> Kathy Niejadlik	203-421-0997

### OFFICERS

Executive Committee Chair, Carol Luckenbach	203-530-9903
Executive Committee Vice Chair, Tom Lauher	203-530-7467
Board of Deacons Members*	See Below
Clerk, Eileen McCann	203-623-9155
Assistant Clerk, Kate Davis	203-421-5848
Treasurer, Calvin Price	203-245-8566
Assistant Treasurer, TBD	
Financial Secretary Receipts/Disbursements, Susan O'Connor	203-457-1559
Asst. Financial Secretary, Receipts/Disbursements, Calvin Price	203-245-8566

\*Peter Haff, 203-415-2773; \*Melissa Blundon, 203-421-4465; Dawn Barber, 203-457-1868; Peter Meier, 203-421-8377; Sally Lottick, 570-510-8934; Kate Holthausen, 203-982-0431

### BOARDS/COMMITTEES/TEAMS

Board of Christian Ed Chair, Erica McMillian	203-895-2611
Board of Deacons, Co-Chair Peter Haff	203-415-2773
Co-Chair, Melissa Blundon	203-996-0671
Board of Finance, Scott Chasse	860-663-0915
Circle Nursery School, Meredith Young	203-410-4487
Communications Team Leader, Roberta Hanlon	203-500-8311
Cong. Life Ministry Team Co-Chair, Ken Nichols	860-346-2000
Co-Chair, Kate Holthausen	203-982-0431
Generosity Team, TBD	
Hospitality Chair, TBD	
Human Resources Chair, TBD	
Mission Ministry Team, Roberta Hanlon	203-500-8311
Music Chair, Heather Crawford	203-421-5670
Pastoral Relations Contact, TBD	
Property & Planning Chair, Tom Lauher	203-530-7467
Quiet Ministry Chair, Linda Young	203 645-7582

**Make a Gift on our Website!** It's easy! Have a special occasion for which you'd like to thank God? Want an easy way to make your weekly offering? Like to establish a monthly automatic donation as a sustaining member? Visit [www.NorthMadisonCC.org](http://www.NorthMadisonCC.org), click "Online Giving" at the top of the page, and just follow the instructions! Or TEXT "Donation" to **833-948-2188**. Or, just scan here with your phone. Thank you for your love and support of NMCC and our ministries.

