



## THE CIRCLE CHURCH NEWS

November 2022

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

### PASTOR'S NOTE

November: a month that begins with remembrance as we commemorate All Saints Day (Celebrated as Remembrance Sunday at NMCC), moves to thoughts of the nation as we campaign and cast ballots, continues into generosity and gratitude as we pledge our church community for another year and gather with friends, families, and traditions to offer God our Thanksgiving and share our Harvest Dinner, and concludes with anticipation as Advent dawns anew and we begin the journey to Christmas. This year, we will also experience the autumn daylight savings time change for the last time. That is a lot for one month to hold! And it's not even one of our 31-day months!

With all this going on, in addition to all that's going on in our world and in our lives, it's a good time to remember that we are human beings and not human doings. It's a good time to check in with yourself. How are you doing? Really doing? And how is that with your being?

If, when you check in with yourself, and it's probably good to do this more than once – maybe even set a date with yourself and a reminder in your phone and give yourself the gift of a check in at a regular interval - When you check in with yourself, if you find that your (or the world's) doings are perturbing your being, or weighing you down, you know what I'm going to say: slow down for a moment, get still, and take a deep, slow, breath...

Doesn't that feel better?

Now, here's something new to try: sitting somewhere quietly, place one hand on your forehead (as if you were checking your temperature). Place the other hand across the back of your head at the base. Now just hold your head quietly, cradling it with kindness, and wait.

In a moment or two, you'll either find yourself taking a deep breath automatically or maybe even yawning. When you have done this, you have accomplished something. A little reset of your system. Enjoy it! Maybe say a word of gratitude. And then reengage whatever it is you must be about doing with a gentler spirit in your being.

I hope it helps!

"And they said, O human greatly loved, fear not, peace be with you;  
be strong and of good courage. ' And as they  
spoke to me, I was strengthened and said,  
'Let my God speak, for you have strengthened me." ~Daniel 10:19

Love and blessings, Heather

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## CHILDREN AND YOUTH MINISTRIES



**News  
from  
Sue**

It sure has been a busy fall so far here at NMCC!

Our church school kids have enjoyed designing and painting two nature murals that are now brightening up what used to be a weedy patch by our dumpster. Now, the area is filled with perennials to attract pollinators as we head into next Spring. Thank you to Ken Shuey for inspiring our mural design by sharing your empowering "I Am A Mountain" story in Worship. Thank you to all of the adults who helped, including Heather Crawford, Melis, Meredith, Missy and the Garden Rescue Team! Our kids rock!



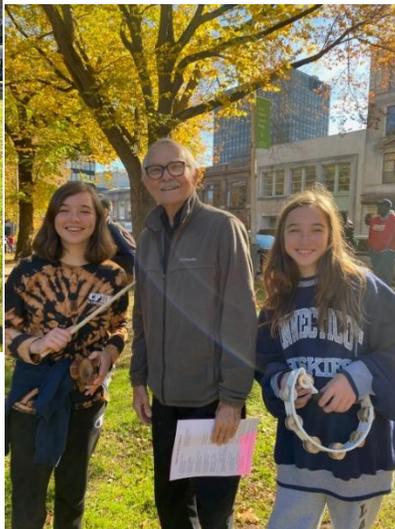


We also talked in Worship about how God created our world and everything in it, and how God asks us to take care of nature. We learned that without enough pollinators like bees, butterflies, beetles and bats we won't be able to grow fruits and vegetables like melons, peppers, eggplants, cucumbers, and peaches. We now know that pollinators are at risk because of the use of pesticides and other factors, so untreated pollinator gardens are more important than ever before. We hope that we've made a nice destination for our pollinator friends to come to work next year!

We are now looking forward to the **Harvest Dinner** as our JYG and SYG are going to be making salads and serving during this special community event next week. The Harvest Dinner reminds me that soon we will be gathering with family and friends as we celebrate Thanksgiving, together in person again. And then Advent will begin. (Can you believe it?)

I hope that we all will have time during the busyness of this season to recharge a bit, whether it is by spending some time in nature, or curling up with a book, or having a family game night without technology in hand. Because when we give ourselves time to slow down for a little while, I believe we can better enjoy all of the events and all we feel we have to accomplish throughout the holiday season. Maybe we will more deeply appreciate the blessings of being together as a church family, and with our own families and friends, if we give ourselves permission to recharge as well. I recently came upon a simple activity that both kids and adults can use to go deeper into any experience and increase our awareness in any moment. It can also be used to quiet anxiety and anchor ourselves back in the present. All you need to do is: Wherever you are - Look for 5 things you can see, 4 things you can hear, 3 things you can feel, 2 things you can smell, and 1 thing you can taste. Parents, you may want to try this with kids the next time you are out in nature together. Then share your lists, if you like.

Huge thanks to all who came together to share lunch with hungry neighbors outside of **Trinity Church on the New Haven Green** the last weekend in October. Because of your generosity (through grocery donations, time prepping lunches, baking cookies, and serving on the Green), we were able to share God's love with over 100 folks who came to "Chapel on the Green" to worship and eat lunch together.

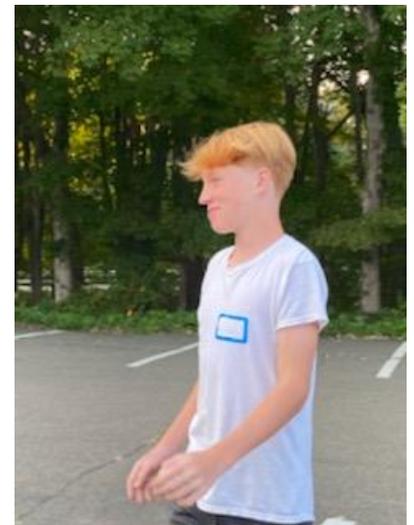


***Chapel on the Green - A bright, beautiful Autumn day for sharing fellowship and food together with Trinity Church and neighbors. Drumming, praying, singing, sharing - our community came together to participate in this outreach ministry serving vulnerable unhoused and food insecure folks in New Haven.***

Some good news to share: As of now, it looks like we will be able to perform a live **Christmas Pageant** this year! I'd love it if our older teens would consider participating as we've got lots of roles available in our telling of the first Christmas. We will be using the script from the virtual pageant, so our recent actors should be familiar with it. We will be holding the pageant during worship on Sunday, Dec. 11th, with practice during church school Dec. 4th and in the Sanctuary on Thursday, Dec. 8th, from 5:30-6:15. I will have a signup sheet at both practices for each participant to select a jumbo candy bar that I will give them as a thank you for being in the pageant on the 11th. I will also offer a non-candy treat, if you let me know you would prefer that option.

Circle Nursery Families, we would love to welcome your child(ren) into our Christmas pageant! We have lots of opportunities for little barnyard animals and angels to shine, and we can also rustle up some speaking parts if they are desired. Please give me a ring or send me an email if your child(ren) would like to participate.

Please let me know if your child/teen wants to participate by Sunday, Nov. 13th as we would like to start giving out roles and assigning costumes on Nov. 20th during church school. All are welcome at church school at any time; official rehearsals will be Dec. 4 and 8th. Costumes will be available for pickup during those times.



*"Youth Group Fun" - JYG and SYG gathered with Sue and our new YG leaders Jen, Elizabeth, Lyndia (thank you also to Peter!) and Lyn to share dinner and engage in team building games and activities.*

**Potential Mission Trip this Summer:** Looking for participants and chaperones!

Right now, we are considering several options that are within driving distance that would give our group an opportunity to serve neighbors through home improvements that can be accomplished within a week.

We would like to open this trip to rising 10th graders through newly graduated high school seniors, but will consider younger youth if a parent wishes to chaperone. Adults do not need to have a child/teen in order to chaperone.



We also aim to keep the expense at or below \$500 per participant, and will be fundraising to defray costs.

Please let me know of your interest as soon as possible. The next step will be a gathering to talk about options. Thank you to Lyndia and Jen D. for organizing!

Thank you also to Lyn and Anna W. for helping to organize and lead our new **Kids' Kindness Club**! We have 14 K-2<sup>nd</sup> graders who have been busy over the last few weeks sharing little kindnesses with big hearts by visiting residents at The Hearth to play card games, and by bringing cookies to the firehouse to thank our next-door neighbors for being first responders. As one of our club kids said, "I feel happier when I know something I did is making someone else feel happy too."



*Go Fish at the Hearth*

With love and gratitude,  
Sue (and your CE Crew - Erica, Missy, Meredith, Lyn, Lyndia, Jeff)

## COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND FUNDRAISERS



**Mission Ministry Team:** Our Caring for Creation ministry has been busy - our Pollinator Garden is cleared, the fence is painted and plants planted, and our Garden Rescue team had a fun morning planting at a Columbus House property. Our Connecticut Quest for Peace collection was a huge success! Our Prison Ministry launched a holiday collection this month and our Food Pantry Ministry introduced a joint program with Christian Education.



**Caring for Creation - Pollinator Garden and Mural:** Our youth have almost completed a wonderful mural as the backdrop to the new pollinator garden in the north corner of the parking lot. Pollinator plants and bulbs are in the ground, ready to start attracting bees, butterflies and birds early next spring and all through the growing season. Mulch from some of the trees will be repurposed to provide soil protection during the winter until the plants are fully established. There is room for more plants if you have any that need to be transplanted in the next couple weeks.





Members of the garden rescue team (Carol Luckenbach, Heather Crawford and Roberta Hanlon for this adventure) traveled to New Haven and met Sheree DiMario, the Columbus House Volunteer coordinator, at the Adeline Street property to plant donated hosta and day lilies, and then replaced some boxwoods with dappled willow bushes. Sheree has been envisioning these planting all growing season and the team was thrilled to make her vision a reality.

The Madison Land Conservation Trust is holding its annual meeting and lecture at our church on Thursday, November 10th at 7:00PM. Patrick Lynch, author of A Field Guide to Long Island Sound, will be presenting An Ancient Shore and the Long Tidal River: The Riches of Connecticut's World-Class Estuaries. This should be an incredible evening of beautiful pictures and great information, and we encourage all to attend. Heather Crawford, Tom Lauher and Roberta Hanlon, Champions



**Connecticut Quest for Peace Collection:** Thank you for the generous donations to CT Quest for Peace. You donated beautiful sheets, blankets, mattress pads and pillowcases. I received, warm coats, hats, boots, gloves and summer cloths, sandals and shoes. Many binders, notebook papers, pens and pencils were given, Boxes of dressings, medical supplies, hygiene products and pots and pans were donated. They will soon be off to help the people of Paraguay, Nicaragua and Appalachia. Karen Miller, Champion



**Food Pantry:** We introduced a special program to enhance our Coins for Food collection during Communion Sunday each month. It is co-sponsored by both the Food Pantry ministry and our Youth. Sue Timony-Hall joined Holly to lead our youth during Sunday Worship to introduce the jars they decorated to collect change. Each jar is decorated and includes a suggested prayer to feed the hungry. As always, we are also collecting cereal and pasta for the Clinton Food pantry and canned tuna, tomatoes and chili for Madison. Holly Francis, Champion



**Prison Ministry:** Thank you for your kindness and support throughout the year and for your continued generosity. The holidays are approaching soon, as we remember the families of those who are incarcerated and without their loved ones during the season. Please join us as we collect items for the Free Forever Prison Ministry in New Haven. The particular needs for this holiday collection will begin November 1st and continue through November 20, 2022. The

items are: **sugar, cereal, bath soap, paper towels, diapers, coffee, toothpaste, dish detergent, laundry detergent, toilet paper, and non-perishable food.** In addition, we thought other items may help their holidays to be more special: **canned cranberry sauce, boxed or bagged stuffing mix, canned gravy, dried fruits, rices, canned vegetables, new toys, and other holiday treats.** Please leave these items on the ramp outside the church office in the bin marked "Prison Ministry." May your holidays be blessed, and may we bring blessings to others. NMCC Prison Ministry Team, Nora Price, Champion



**SMPA in Need of Volunteers:** Thank you for visiting the SMPA Mission table on September 25<sup>th</sup>. Lyn Boling is teaching a group of students how to crochet. And Ken Shuey will be sharing his artistic talents with some students. Volunteers are

always needed! If you have an interest or skill you can share with these young folk, please let me know. Karen Miller, Champion 203-915-2989



**Community Yoga:** Leading up to Thanksgiving, let's make sure to set aside time to prepare both mentally and physically with the practice of Yoga. We currently have 2 sessions in progress, but you can join any time and your first class with us is free! The current Monday classes (in-person and on Zoom) at 6:00 pm run through November 21 and the Thursday series at 6:00 pm (Zoom only) run through November 17. For more details, visit our Yoga page: [Yoga | NMCC \(northmadisoncc.org\)](https://www.northmadisoncc.org/yoga)

If your friends or family would like to join, we'd love to have them - advising them previous experience is recommended. First class is free. Please mail your checks to NMCC, 1271 Durham Road, Madison, CT 06443 or visit our web site [www.northmadisoncc.org](https://www.northmadisoncc.org) and follow the instructions on the "Donate" button. Either way, please CLEARLY mark the payment is for Yoga. Questions or to register, contact Roberta Hanlon [robertahanlon@msn.com](mailto:robertahanlon@msn.com) or 203- 500-8311.

**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](mailto:robertahanlon@msn.com) if you would like to learn more.



**NMCC Harvest Dinner! November 5, 2022 - Our "classic" Harvest Dinner is back! Both Dine-In and Take-Out options are available!** Delicious meals of pumpkin or cranberry muffins, roast turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes and gravy, turnips (rutabagas!), green beans, cranberry sauce, ending with home baked apple or pumpkin pie. Wow! Reservations required for all dine in and take out meals. First Seating: 5:00 pm, Second Seating: 6:30 pm. Dine-in: \$25.00; Seniors age 65+: \$20.00; children 12 and under: \$10. Email the church office, [office@northmadisoncc.org](mailto:office@northmadisoncc.org) and note on the subject line "Harvest Dinner" or call 203-421-3241. Parties of 4 or more should sent payment in advance to: NMCC Harvest Dinner, 1271 Durham Road, Madison, CT 06443.



**Annual Holiday Craft Fair – Save The Date:** Our annual holiday Craft Fair is December 3 from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm. 25 Quality Juried Artisans and Crafter - Over 2,500 Homemade Cookies - Karen's Café - Free Admission

**Attn: Craft Fair Cookie Bakers:** Martha Nichols will not be able to bake her famous Chocolate Pillow cookies for the Holiday Craft Fair on December 3<sup>rd</sup> this year. If you're able to bake and would like the recipe, please contact Linda Young at [lindaluy@comcast.net](mailto:lindaluy@comcast.net).



**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).

## OPEN AND AFFIRMING TEAM

**The Open and Affirming Team** has been busy with various events and projects in order to spread the love that is behind the ONA covenant at NMCC! The church showed their support of the LGBTQ+ community at Madison Pride in several ways this year! Barb and Heather represent NMCC on the Madison PrideFest Board and so we're organizers of the whole event and one of many sponsors of the event. We provided the fence around the green to indicate that something fun was happening. NMCC had a table at the event with temporary tattoos for everyone and Lyn Boling sold hats and scarves that had been created by the knitting crew to raise money for the ACLU - \$328 was donated! Thanks to everyone who helped with this event!



A new bookshelf will be in Fellowship Hall that will have books for all ages to borrow related to people the ONA covenant promises to support and affirm - more on that project soon!

The committee is also working on the importance of including pronouns for many facets of the church. Speakers have started to include their pronouns when introducing themselves in the service and we will be incorporating

pronouns on name tags soon! If you would like to become involved with the ONA committee, meetings are on the last Tuesday of each month at 7:00 on Zoom.

**Knitting Ministry at PRIDE Festival:** We knit or crocheted 60 items to sell at the PRIDE Festival on October 9th on the Madison green and raised \$328 to donate to the ACLU!! The ACLU champions the causes of the LGBTQIA Community, as well as many other struggling populations, also supported by our ONA Ministry. We sold 19 items at the Festival and then gave away 6 to some of the youth that attended the LGBTQIA Event at Polson on October 11th! Questions, contact Lyn Boling,

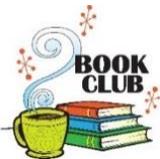


**LGBTQIA+ Presentation:** On National Coming Out Day, October 11, NMCC partnered with St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, First Congregational Church and Madison Youth and Family Services to bring Tony Ferraiolo, Trans activist and educator (of Healthcare Advocates International), to Polson Middle School to present his keynote presentation "From Fear to Acceptance" to adults, share a documentary he produced about the story of a trans teen with youth, and show our youngest group Willow Smith's video "I Am Me" with time to create poems about what makes each child who they are today. Over 50 people attended and enjoyed fellowship during a pizza dinner and a lively Q & A discussion after group time. We thank Tony for sharing his advocacy with us in such a kind and loving manner. Also, thanks to Sue Timony-Hall for organizing this event.

## 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](#).



**Book Discussion Group:** We're reading *Secret City: The Hidden History of Gay Washington* and will meet to discuss it on November 15 at 5:00 pm in Fellowship Hall. Contact Peter Meier.



**Generosity Season:** We are in the middle of this time in the fall when we think about God's generosity to us and our families (of course, we should think about that every day). You will soon receive a [letter](#) from the Generosity Team with a [2023 pledge card](#), and you will hear a generosity message during Sunday's worship gathering. Please DO think about your support of your church and please be as generous as you are able. Many thanks, blessings and best wishes from the Generosity Team....Pastor Heather, Scott and Peggy Conover, Dwight Juliani, Sally Lottick and Peter Meier.



**Remembrance Sunday:** All Saints Day is traditionally recognized as November 1. Next Sunday is the day we celebrate this day in worship and honor the people who have died in the last year and across our lives. We are invited this year to bring a candle from home to

represent those we have each lost that we would like to remember. Please ensure that your candle is ready to be lit (with a fire-safe holder or base). When we arrive in worship, we will be invited to place the candles on the Communion table beside the Christ candle and to light them. There will be small placards provided on which to write the person's name. There will also be candles provided for those who would like to use one without bringing one from home. The candles will be allowed to burn throughout our worship so we may feel ourselves in the communion of the saints as we celebrate and remember them.



**Flowers for Worship and Food for Fellowship:** If you'd like to sponsor flowers for Sunday worship or bring food for fellowship, please sign up on the sheet on the easel in Fellowship Hall on Sunday, or contact the office at [office@northmadisoncc.org](mailto:office@northmadisoncc.org) or 203-421-3241.



**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](#): and download an application or call 203-421-3241 for more information.



**Pancake Breakfast with Santa:** Annual Pancake Breakfast with Santa sponsored by Circle Nursery School will take place on Saturday December 10 from 8:00 – 10:30 am at the North Madison Congregational Church, 1271 Durham Rd. We will be serving pancakes, sausages, orange juice, and coffee. Tickets will be sold at the door: \$8 adults, \$5 children. Children will have an opportunity to talk to Santa, so bring your cameras! This fun event is open to the entire community. Email [circlenursery@sbcglobal.net](mailto:circlenursery@sbcglobal.net) for more information.



**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 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.

An article about our **Harvest Dinner** was included in *The Source* on November 27 on page 11, [[please check it out](#)].

## 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.

