



North Madison Congregational Church

September 29, 2024 10:00am Hybrid Worship

License number: #738900-A

Welcome!

*Whoever you are, and wherever you are on life's journey,
you are welcome here.*

We welcome your prayer requests.

Please share your prayer requests using the slips of paper in your pew pockets: pink for Joys, green for Concerns. These will be collected by the ushers during the offertory.

Assisted Listening Devices: Please ask an Usher or Deacon for a set of ear buds and a receiver for our state-of-the-art hearing aid system.

Children are welcome in worship at NMCC! Sometimes, children can be a little noisy. It's ok. God made them this way. Yellow toy bags are in the Playground in the rear of the sanctuary to help occupy little ones during worship. Most Sundays during the school year, young people proceed to Church School after the Children's Story. Nursery caregivers are ready to receive those feeling wiggly downstairs at any time. On Communion Sundays, children remain or return to the sanctuary to celebrate Communion with their families.

10:01 Welcome

Rev. Dr. Heather Arcovitch, *Senior Minister*
Kate Holthausen, *Deacon*

Centering Time

*We shift into simply being with God, silently
as we root ourselves in sacred time.*

*Resting in God's loving presence,
take a deep breath, let it out, and reflect...*

Prelude

"Ev'ry Time I Feel The Spirit"
Traditional Spiritual

NMCC Choir

Gathering Words

Let us unite our hearts now in these Gathering Words. Please pray along with me by reading the **bolded** words aloud.

We gather to draw nearer to God in community:

- **to find the lost,**
- to lift up the sorrowful,
- **to offer companionship and care to one another,**
- to make God's dream of the world come true together.

**May we be kind in our speaking, thoughtful in our reflecting,
courageous in our doing, and never stray from the love that binds
us to life and one another.**

In this spirit, we light our worship candles.

The candles are lit.

Children's Story

Our Young People and Pastor Heather

*The children are invited to come forward for the story.
and depart for Church School during the hymn.*

Hymn

"We Are Called to Follow Jesus"

#465 Chalice Hymnal

Scripture Mark 9:38-50

Reflection Heather

Offering Our Tithes & Gifts

NMCC is supported entirely by the generosity of our members, friends, and fundraisers.

Thank you!



venmo

Offertory “Lord, I Want To Be A Christian”
arr. John Carter

NMCC Choir

Sharing Our Joys and Concerns

Pastoral & Offertory Prayer

The Lord’s Prayer*

**Our Fathering, Mothering God, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.**

Thy kin-dom come;

thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

**Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us.**

And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil

for thine is the kin-dom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

**A Note on language: One of the ways we joyfully live out our Open and Affirming Covenant is in our efforts to ensure the language we use to describe God is intentionally inclusive. We know that God has no body, and therefore has no gender—in fact, scripture tells us that we are all created in God’s image—so we are careful to use language that reflects this as often as we can.*

Announcements

Please read your weekly email. We will highlight just a few.

Benediction

***Blessings of Shalom**

*We sing Shalom twice: once in prayer for the world;
once to bless one another.*

*Many of us hold hands to be connected during the singing.
If you prefer not to touch another's hand, simply place your hands
together (in a prayer gesture) or across your chest
if someone reaches out to you.*

**Shalom to you, now, shalom, my friends.
May God's full mercies be with you, my friends.
In all your living, through all your loving,
Christ be your shalom! Christ be your shalom!**

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***Congregational Charge**

One: Our worship is ended, so...

Many: Our service begins!

Postlude "Toccatà"
Flor Peters (1903-1986)

Linda Juliani,
Minister of Music

Please stay for Friendship Hour!

Announcements

SafeConduct Annual Training - Today after worship in Friendship Hall. Staff and members who work with NMCC's youth and children, please stay for lunch (provided) and this annual review of our NMCC SafeConduct covenant. Even if you have participated in SafeConduct training in the past, our policy includes annual retraining to ensure our ongoing

commitment to the safety of our young people. We expect the training to run 45-60 minutes. *Erica McMillian and Rene Chin*

NMCC at Madison Pride Fest – October 5, 1-4pm. Join us on the Madison Green for the 5th annual Madison Pride Fest! Help person our table and share some NMCC love, or just come and enjoy Pride! We will have Pride-themed temporary tattoos and a take-home craft memento at our table. All are welcome!! *Barb Black*

Looking for a Few Creative Minds: On September 8 some 70 members and friends of North Madison Congregational Church gathered to kick off our church year with brunch church, Communion, and a workshop with consultant, Rev. Paul Nickerson. Paul guided us as we worked in table groups to identify the elements that we would like to include in a communication covenant for our congregation. Our clerk, Mary Blankson, has summarized the work of the table groups – you will find the document link in the Weekly News.

Several key themes were identified by the table groups. Several of those themes link directly with our congregation's Habits of Mind, especially thinking and communicating with clarity and precision and listening with understanding and empathy.

We hope that everyone will take the time to review the summary and begin to consider what our communication covenant might look like. If you are interested in working on a small team to develop a draft covenant to present to the congregation, or you have ideas to share or concerns to express after reviewing the summary, **please contact *Carol Luckenbach* or our Office by September 30.**

Fundraising Leadership Needed! See the weekly news for the fundraisers that rose to the top of the list we generated last spring. We'd like to select 2-3 to implement for 2025 and we're looking for leaders to chair these events. If interested, please contact the office or *Calvin Price*.

Friendly Reminder About Sales Tax: I have been asked to remind you that the church does not pay sales tax on items purchased. If you need to make a purchase, please ask for the church's tax free number or make a check request ahead of time. If you submit a receipt with sales tax included you will not be reimbursed for the tax portion of the expense. Thanks. *Carol Luckenbach*

Bible Study: Explore the Gospels of Thomas and Mary and other non-canonical gospels with Pastor Heather via zoom Thursdays at 4pm. ALL are welcome—no Bible knowledge expected—just a curious heart and open mind. We have a lot of fun and would love to have you! Zoom link in the weekly email. *Pastor Heather*

Wednesday Evening Vespers Wrap up your day with a calming meditation and reflection with Pastor Heather and your NMCC friends live online at 9pm, Wednesdays on the North Madison UCC Facebook page.

Connecticut Quest for Peace Offerings: It's that time of year! Our annual fall offering of medical supplies, clothing and shoes, backpacks, linens, sewing machines, kitchenware, school and office supplies, and hygiene items **runs through October 27**. Please bring items through the red side door of the garage at 7 Godman Rd., Madison. Need help unloading or a pick up at your home? Please call Karen. *Karen Miller*

Columbus House Breakfast: Help in serving breakfast October 19th. Our guests look forward to our hot breakfasts each month and we really enjoy the fellowship of serving them. *Roberta Hanlon*

20th Anniversary Roslyn Young Memorial Concert: "Bach—Brandenburg and Beyond: A Baroque Celebration," Sunday, October 13th at 4pm at First Congregational Church of Madison. This concert features an eight-member Baroque ensemble performing on period instruments. Reception following. \$20 at the door, under 18 free. Roslyn Young was beloved sister of NMCC member Linda Young.

Book Discussion Group: November 12 at 4:30pm in Friendship Hall. Anne Lamott's *Somehow: Thoughts on Love* explores love's transformative power—how it surprises us, forces us to confront uncomfortable truths, reminds us of our humanity, and guides us forward. *Peter Meier*

Community Yoga: Mondays at 6pm in Friendship Hall and on Zoom and Thursdays on Zoom. Join anytime! www.northmadisoncc.org/yoga.
Roberta Hanlon

Art Classes with Ken Shuey: During the summer, we will continue to have informal art get-togethers at Ken's on Tuesdays 5 to 7pm. Rather than formal lessons we will draw, paint, and visit galleries according to our collective wishes as we go. All are welcome!

Mad Trouble: Mad Trouble is a local grassroots community working on informing voters about the dangers of Project 2025/Agenda 47 and getting out the vote. For more info and to register for upcoming meetings, actions, and updates, go to Redwine.blue. *Barb Black*

We're Hiring - Director of Christian Education: Interviews have begun! Please keep candidates and our interview crew in your prayers. North Madison Congregational Church seeks an energetic, creative, flexible individual to lead our faith formation programs as part-time Director of Christian Education. <https://www.northmadisoncc.org/hiring-director-of-christian-education>. *Erica McMillian, Rene Chin*

Food Pantry: Please place nonperishable groceries for the Clinton Food Pantry, especially pasta, cereal, canned tuna and chicken, in the baskets at the rear of the sanctuary. Thank you for your continued generosity! *Holly Francis*

Coins for Food are received for Clinton Food Pantry on the first Sunday of each month as part of our coming to table for Communion. Paper money is also welcome! *Holly Francis*

Campaign 224 in 2024 - Funding our Legacy of Love: Help secure NMCC's legacy! We have received pledges/donations of \$16,000 from 11 donors. Many thanks to these generous pacesetters! Pledge cards are in your pew pocket. *Cal Price*

Help Serve Coffee Hour: Wondering what you can do to help out without joining a committee? Want to make some fun NMCC friends? Katie Holthausen and the Hospitality Team would love to have you play with them on Sunday mornings. There's a signup sheet on the bulletin board, the weekly email; talk to Katie herself or Jackie in the office. *Kate Holthausen*

Host Happy Hour: (as Katie calls it!) Providing some delicious Coffee Hour goodness makes everyone happy. Want to get in on the fun? Show off a new recipe? Celebrate something? Get that extra Halloween candy out of your house? Pick a date and sign up on the bulletin board or just tell Katie or Jackie that you'll supply the goods. The Hospitality Team covers the set up. Thank you! *Kate Holthausen*

Special Thanks to Katie Holthausen and Lyndia Haff (and Ellie Mae) for the elbow grease they invested in giving our kitchen a sparkling pre-Harvest Dinner scrub!

Flowers for Worship: Celebrate a special anniversary, birthday, holiday, or any Sunday by providing flowers for our chancel. Signup in Friendship Hall or contact Jackie in the office to sponsor: office@northmadisoncc.org.

Grocery Cards: Make free income for NMCC! When we purchase these gift cards, the stores give a percentage back to the church. Available for purchase during coffee hour from Big Y, Roberts, Shop Rite, and Stop & Shop. How cool is that?? Why would we buy our groceries any other way? *Cal Price*

North Madison Congregational Church
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