



THE CIRCLE CHURCH NEWS

March 2023

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

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PASTOR'S NOTE

Women and Fem-Identifying Folx, You are invited!

A true challenge for many (if not all?) women in our culture is making time apart from life's busy-ness to just breathe. Even when we retire, our hours are over-full with seemingly limitless to-do lists that hinder us from experiencing the fullness of what God holds for us. In neglecting our peace, we miss out on some of God's greatest gifts. There is an old adage that if you don't have time to meditate for one hour each day, then meditate for two!

God wove Sabbath time intentionally into the fabric of creation, and it is still here as a sacred gift for us today. If you are weary, worn out, overwhelmed, and feeling disconnected; if you would like to connect more deeply with fun, curious, wise, friends; if you would like to become more acquainted with the divine feminine; or if you would just like the opportunity to be in a beautiful shoreline space with some cool people, please register to join us for the first (annual?) NMCC Women's Retreat.

This retreat is a unique opportunity to hit “pause” on our daily patterns and gather to rest and refuel. We know there’s a lot to coordinate – from work to carpooling to childcare, and committing the bulk of your weekend is no small thing. We encourage you to lay your concerns on the Holy One and embrace all that the Spirit has waiting for you. **Join us in the following:**

- 1) Begin praying for the weekend.
 - 2) Register by contacting the church office in advance at office@northmadisoncc.org. Jackie will send you the registration form.
 - 3) Invite a church friend to join you.
 - 5) Text Pastor Heather at 203.687.9172 if you have any questions, concerns, ideas, or barriers.
- Start becoming excited and curious about where the Holy Spirit/Divine Feminine/Sophia Wisdom may lead.

Stuff to know/bring:

When: 5pm Friday, March 10 – 3 or 4 pm, Saturday, March 11*

**We are finalizing the schedule. Please plan to attend the whole retreat. If there are mitigating circumstances, please speak with Pastor Heather.*

Accommodation: The Haff homestead in Old Lyme. Rooms are double or triple occupancy including limited accessible accommodations (no stairs involved, bathroom adjacent). There are beds for 17 adults and room for 7 more on air mattresses. Several of the beds may be shared sleeping spaces—yay for slumber party!

What: A time of rest, renewal, deepening friendships, sharing stories, cultivating the feminine divine, the beauty of the CT coastline, and some spiritual exploration that you won't want to miss.

Contact: Pastor Heather with questions/ideas.
Jackie Fix in the church office to register.

Cost: The bulk of the expense (rental of the retreat space, cleaning and sanitizing fees, etc.,) is generously supported by the Deacon’s budget. There will be nominal contributions requested for defraying meal and supply costs. We anticipate this being around \$50 per woman, and will confirm the actual amount as plans are finalized. Please don’t allow ability to contribute financially to dissuade you from participation.

Bring: Sheets/bedding/sleeping bag, towel, toiletries, and a favorite mug (this will be a “sacred object” which we will share in some of our reflection time together). A willingness to unplug and be present as we cultivate sacred space together.

Ways to Help: If you would like to help with food/baking preparation (whether you are attending or would just like to support the women who are), please let Pastor Heather or Lyndia Haff know. We have simple meals planned and would be grateful to have your help. If you play a portable instrument and are willing to help accompany some singing, please let Pastor Heather know. If you have other gifts/capacities/ideas to offer for this or a future women’s retreat or gathering, Melissa Blundon, Pastor Heather, or Lyndia would love to hear from you, too! No matter whether you are attending or not, we welcome your prayers to prepare and support the sacred time together and the women who will be sharing in it.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH MINISTRIES



Happy Spring Friends!

Warmer days ahead! Please check out our Pollinator Garden (located across the parking lot near our mural fence) as our plants come up this spring! It will be wonderful to see what kind of flying and crawling friends our flowers will attract!

Here's a fun way for people of all ages to spend time with God this month:



Praying in Color

Adapted from *Praying in Color: Kids' Edition* by Sybil MacBeth.
Learn more at prayingincolor.com.

Praying is a way of being with God. There are so many ways to pray. Praying in Color is a way of praying without spoken words. You'll need paper and coloring materials to get started.

- 1 Invite God's presence.**
Prepare to spend time with God in prayer by inviting God's presence. You might read a passage of scripture, take some deep breaths, or just set your mind on God and begin!
- 2 Write a name for God on your paper.**
Write a name for God on your paper. For example: Lord, Almighty, Savior, Spirit, Mother. You may want to add an adjective. For example: Loving God, Holy One, Precious Lord. Draw a shape around your name for God. It might be a circle, a square, a blob, or a squiggle.
- 3 Add some details & color.**
Add some details. You can add dots, lines, circles, or doodles of any kind. Then add some color.
- 4 Add your prayers.**
Begin adding shapes with prayers inside. You might add the names of people you want to pray for or places or situations. Add details and color to each new prayer you add.
- 5 Sit with your prayer drawing.**
When you feel like your prayer is complete, sit with the prayer drawing and look carefully at the names, images, and colors. Then find a special place to save your prayer.



Created by Sarah Bentley Allred.

Worship Update - Ways to Get Involved in Worship Services and Welcoming Friends:

Thank you to all of our Junior Deacons and Readers who enrich our Worship each week! If you are in 5th grade or above and would like to be a reader for Worship, please reach out to me.

NEW! We are looking forward to inviting families to become Worship Greeters each Communion Sunday during the school year. Please give me or one of our deacons, Peter or Melis, a call if you would like to serve in this special way.

Please also plan to join us on Palm Sunday for April 2nd for a community play (please contact Olivia Robinson to participate, at 203-641-1638 text or email hayes641@comcast.net), some yummy fellowship time, and our annual Easter egg hunt.

Church School Update: We've been looking for the timeless truths in every bible story and exploring the ways that these truths relate to our own lives. As we looked deeper, the story of David and Goliath became more than a story about a regular sized person defeating a giant. We started to see Goliath as challenges we face, and realize that God strengthens us with the support of the people around us. We are thankful that we can turn to our church family to help with our challenges.

Kindness Club Update: We received a lovely and loving letter from our friends at The Hearth:

February 22, 2023

We have been blessed to have the Kindness Club members from North Madison Congregational Church volunteering in our community. As soon as our residents see that the Club will be visiting when it's posted on our calendar, they immediately start making plans to go to dinner early that night so they can be ready to visit. The members of the club are definitely a bright spot in the days and lives of our residents. They are reminded of their own children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren when we have the club members come to spend time at Tuxis Pond. Games have been played, crafts have been created, discussions have happened and it's so very encouraging to see the expressions of our residents when they interact with the children. A resident can go from having the worst day ever to suddenly having a smile on his or her face all due to the light and love the children bring into our community. This is a ministry that is second to none and one that I hope continues for many years to come. I think Psalm 127:4 says it best: "Children are a gift from the Lord; they are a reward from him." I can definitely say that the Kindness Club has been wonderful gift to our community!

*Becky Elmo, Live More Director
The Hearth at Tuxis Pond*





Girls Empowerment Update: Our Girls Empowerment Series is off to a wonderful start with Yoga and Mindful Breathing techniques. Delaney and Caroline led a conversation about things we find stressful or anxiety producing in our lives and how yoga and breathing can be tools we can use during those times.



Remaining sessions are centered around defeating negative self-talk and tapping into the power of using a reset word to reframe self-sabotaging thoughts, how to interact safely on social media while loving and protecting your own self-esteem, and creating a vision board to dream about and set attainable goals for the future. Please give me a call if your 4th-8th graders and/or friends would like to participate!

Exciting news - the United Church of Christ is writing a story on our program! When recently asked why this Girls Empowerment program is important to us, we shared: We feel this program serves our local girls as national numbers rise around anxiety and depression in our kids, and the correlation between social media and feelings of isolation and or low self-worth become more apparent. We feel mentoring relationships between adults - teens - younger kids are the work of ministry, and that building supportive relationships strengthen each of us.

Thank you to Vicki Earl for leading us in mindful yoga and to NMCC Yoga Ministry for making this class possible.

JYG & SYG Snow Tubing at Powder Ridge! This past Saturday, Feb. 25th: A great time had by all!

Huge thanks to Lyndia and Erica for all the work that went into planning this outing. Thank you to all of our chaperones and drivers!



JYG and SYG Teens and Families - Please Mark Your Calendars for our Upcoming Spring Events:

JYG & SYG Schedule for Spring 2023

- March 26 - SYG - bake for college friends and tag sale 5-7pm fellowship hall/kitchen
- April 23 SYG - Old Lyme Soup Kitchen
- April 23 JYG - Bake for Tag Sale 5-7pm fellowship hall/kitchen 5-7pm
- May 6 Tag Sale (rain date May 13), SYG/JYG all hands on deck 8am-noon
- May 21 SYG - End of year celebration - Ice cream in Durham at Dari Serve
- May 21 JYG - End of year celebration - Ice cream at Ashley's Madison
- June 4 End of Church Year for CE Programming, all church picnic
- Also in the works - JYG helping serve insecure neighbors at the Clinton Food Pantry - will be a Wednesday afternoon. Date coming soon!

With Love, Sue & your CE Crew (Erica, Missy, Meredith, Lyndia, Lyn & Jeff)



MUSIC NEWS



John Rutter's REQUIEM On Sunday, March 26 our choir will perform portions of John Rutter's REQUIEM — which contains some of the most exquisitely beautiful music ever written. It will be accompanied by strings, oboe and organ.

Completed in 1985, the REQUIEM bears the dedication “in memoriam L.F.R.” — Rutter's father — who had died the previous year. A “requiem” (the word means “rest”) is a musical setting which honors those who have passed into God's Eternal Arms.

Some of the movements in Rutter's version are based on the text of the Latin Requiem Mass, while “The Lord Is My Shepherd,” sung in English, was actually written in 1976 and then included as a part of this larger work.

Alternating between tender and powerful, this music will touch your heart and fill your soul. You won't want to miss it ...

COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND FUNDRAISER



Mission Ministry Team: It been a short but busy February! We've joined forces with CE and are planning on a joint plant and community tag sale in May 6. Our Columbus House clients enjoyed a hot NMCC Saturday morning breakfast. Our two Call to Care Uganda wells have been dug. Our local food pantries are grateful for your food and Coin for Food donations and our Youth are planning to distribute food in the Clinton Pantry. Our Prison Ministry continues to get food and personal donations to Rev. Brixaida Marquez's food pantry and are making phone calls and sending email in support of Proposed Bill, S.B. No. 886 (an act establishing community-based sentencing alternatives for primary caretakers of independent children)! Our current Yoga class has 4 new students in February and 2 of our Yogis became members of NMCC this month!



Call to Care Uganda Well Project – Well Update: Exciting news! Grateful folks in both Amidikan Village and Anoceny Village in Uganda are rejoicing today that the two wells NMCC sponsored HAVE BEEN DUG!!!

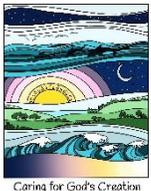
Martha Wells Hoffman reports that new jerry cans for collecting water have been distributed and joyful celebrations occurred. She says "I think I heard their shouts of joy all the way from Uganda!" Soon our church will receive a book documenting the project and then we will all be able to see the pictures of their smiles for ourselves 😊



NMCC made this miracle possible!!



*** WATER IS LIFE ***



Caring for God's Creation

Caring for Creation: Check out our spring fundraiser in this newsletter – our plant sale in its 3rd year will be joined by an all-new Community Tag sale on May 6th (rain date May 13). If you donated plants last year, you will be hearing from Sue Kenney shortly about a couple of changes we've made to enhance the quality of plants and the customer buying experience. If you'd like to join the plant donor team, let Sue know ptwellnesscenter@aol.com. The Garden Rescue Team will be dividing and potting church-grown hostas as we did last year....more news about that in early April.

Join our Ministry's focus on sustainability by using ceramic mugs. We have donated mugs (thank you Sue) to help our efforts and we encourage you to use those for Fellowship beverages on Sundays with this invitation: "Take a mug, Use a mug, Wash a mug, Share a mug". We hope you will join us or bring your own. See Tom Lauher with questions.



Columbus House

Columbus House: We served our first "normal" breakfast at Columbus House on February 11, carefully navigating a few new policies (server breakfast at 6:30, not 7:00 pm, for example and clean all pans we used and the kitchen counters and stoves) and training the new Columbus House staff as we made and delivered breakfast. For the clients this was also new but we're happy to report we saw many smiling faces when we left that were a bit disbelieving when we arrived. Many thanks to our team: Peter Meier, Holly and Bob Francis, Ryan McMillian and brand-newbies Meredith and Jameson Young! Check out my photos! Our next breakfast will be served on March 18 – let me know if you want to join us! Roberta Hanlon robertahanlon@msn.com or 203-500-8311.



Jameson Young



Ryan McMillian, Robert Francis, Jameson & Meredith Young, Holly Francis. Missing: Roberta



Connecticut Quest for Peace: Spring is in the air... or at least it was last week!

It will soon be time to donate to Connecticut Quest for Peace. Donations will be going to Nicaragua, Paraguay and Appalachia. Items needed are shoes, sneakers, sandals, backpacks, gently used stuffed toys, sports equipment, towels, sheets, pillow cases, blankets, sewing materials, candles, plastic glasses, plates, all kinds of knives, spoons, forks, pots and pans, musical instruments, garden tools, office supplies, medical supplies: vitamins, dressings, over the counter medicines, hygiene supplies: toothbrushes and paste, soap, shampoo, school supplies and warm and cold weather clothing. Please mark clothing donations in boxes or bags labeled WARM for warm weather clothing and COLD for cold weather clothing.

Donations will be accepted April 3 – 30. Please deliver them to Karen Miller’s home, at 7 Godman Rd, in Madison. Leave the donations in the garage. If you need help unloading donation or want them to be picked up, please call Karen at 203-915-2989.



Food Pantry: Many thanks for over 200 pounds of food donations already in January and February (along with a special surprise of a \$15 gift certificate to a grocery store). The Madison Food Pantry would especially appreciate canned tuna and canned chicken and the Clinton Food Pantry is particularly looking for carbohydrates including cereal, pasta, rice and pancake mix.

Also, your Coins for Food jar will be warmly received next Sunday March 5th as we collectively express our gratitude for the food we enjoy every day. You have donated \$180 during this year already. If it is easier for you, you can leave your jar next to the big collection jar in the front of the sanctuary and take an empty one for your April collection. If you prefer, we will gratefully accept paper money in your jar as well!

We are excited that our Junior Youth Group is planning on helping to distribute food to our neighbors in need in Clinton. Your support for our local food pantries comes in so many ways. Thank you. Holly Francis



Prison Ministry: *Free Forever Prison Ministry Collection:* Blessings and thank you to our NMCC congregation who have continued to donate items to Free Forever Prison Ministry in the New Haven, CT area. On February 13, 2023, we generously delivered 46 food items consisting of cereals, fresh fruits, breads, snack bars, tuna fish, toothbrushes, and toothpastes. Rev. Brixaida Marquez stated it’s a joy to give the families of inmates special foods and treats they don’t

usually buy or receive every day. She sometimes will call a family to come to her home to pick up the much needed and appreciated food. Thanks again NMCC. You are a blessing!

Primary Caretakers Legislation: The NMCC Prison Ministry Team has been partnering with the National Council for Incarcerated and Formerly Incarcerated Women and Girls. Several members of our Prison Ministry Team attended the National Council "FreeHer CT" Campaign kickoff on February 13th in support of the Primary Caretakers Bill SB886. There were many speakers who told their personal and professional stories on the psychology, mental health and environmental disparities children face when separated from their parents. Thank you to Kathy Maurer for her powerful speech, and to the other Prison Ministry members for participating. The Proposed Bill, S.B. No. 886 (an act establishing community-based sentencing alternatives for primary caretakers of independent children) now has a primary sponsor, Senator Gary Winfield. Sen. Winfield introduced the Bill with Representative Robyn Porter. We're in the process of making phone calls and sending emails to CT State Representatives and Senators to support this Bill. More updates on this important legislation to come, as well as how you can participate. Peace and blessings, Nora Price for the NMCC Prison Ministry Team



Community Yoga: Our current Yoga series on Mondays and Thursdays will run through March 20th on Mondays and March 23 (skipping March 13 and 16). A reminder you can join our Community Yoga sessions at any time during a series. The current series runs through February 9th on Mondays and Thursdays.

We will continue with 2 new series on Mondays beginning February 27, and on Thursdays beginning March 2 as follows:

- Mondays – February 27 – March 27 - 5 classes in person and Zoom - \$35
- Thursdays – March 2 – March 30 – 5 classes via Zoom - \$35

If your friends or family would like to join, we'd love to have them - advising them previous experience is recommended. Please mail your checks to NMCC, 1271 Durham Road, Madison, CT 06443 or visit 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 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 if you would like to learn more.



Goodness Grows Plant and Community Tag Sale: Calling all treasure hunters, gardeners, deal seekers and up-cyclers to the North Madison Congregational Church's **Spring celebration to Reduce, Reuse and Recycle!** We are excited that our 3rd annual **Goodness Grows Sale** is growing to include not only a garden sale, but also a community tag sale!

Join us on **Saturday, May 6, 2023 from 9am to 1pm** at North Madison Congregational Church where the parking lot will be buzzing with activity. Our garden sale will feature hundreds of locally grown annuals, perennials and hanging plants straight from our member gardens. Shop for an amazing Mother's Day gift or a beautiful addition to any garden. Next, stroll through the Community Tag Sale to shop

from over 50 trunks and tables of items looking for a new home. You never know what treasures have been hiding in your neighbors' attics and basements!

If you would like to sell items in our tag sale, you may rent a parking space for only \$30. You are welcome to sell directly from your car trunk, set up blankets on the ground, bring your own tables, or rent one from NMCC for \$15. There will also be many volunteer opportunities around the event, including set up, potting plants, plant advisors, plant sales, and concession sales.

The rain date for this event is May 13th. If you have any questions about the Community Tag Sale, please contact Meredith Young (meredith.young2013@gmail.com). If you'd like to learn about donating plants, please contact Sue Kenney (ptwellnesscenter@aol.com) or Holly Francis (hollydayfrancis@aol.com). If you have garden items you'd like to donate, contact Roberta Hanlon (robertahanlon@msn.com).

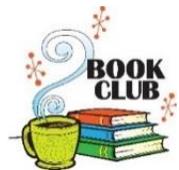
GET INVOLVED / STAY CONNECTED



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 website, northmadisoncc.org to see all we do!



Performance Opportunity: Anyone interested in performing in a short readers theatre for Palm Sunday April 2, please connect Rev Olivia Robinson at 203-641-1638 text or email hayes641@comcast.net The play is *No Name in the Street* by Edward Murch.



Book Discussion Group: We will meet at 5:00 pm on April 4th by ZOOM to discuss *The Book of Soul* by Mark Nepo.

"In *The Book of Soul*, Mark Nepo reminds us how rare it is to be here at all and how precious, real, and raw our tether to this life and each other. The insights gathered here will help you negotiate the currents of life while resting in the barest of simplicities. This book will strengthen your soul."



First (Annual?) NMCC Women's Retreat! 5pm Friday, March 10 – 3 or 4 pm, Saturday, March 11* See Pastor Heather's article above for all the details.



NMCC Celebrates Black History Month: We're celebrating Black History Month and opened an art exhibit displaying the paintings of artist Harry L. Green on February 19. Please visit in Fellowship Hall after church service to enjoy the creativity of gifted artist Harry L. Green. The exhibit will be on display through March 12.

Harry Green comments "From the time I was 5 years old, art was my favorite subject and past time. But having a practical parent, and one of 8 children and getting an art scholarship, my mother who loved to paint herself sat me down and informed me 'Art is a hobby not a career'.

Hence, I pursued an undergrad and MBA in finance. In 1997 after working for decades in the corporate world, yet sensing a void and experiencing a thirst for expression, I joined an adult art group to satisfy that thirst. We are still painting under the tutorage of numerous art instructors. Over the decades, that group continues critiquing and watching each other's artistic growth. This group contributes constructive criticism, enhances growth, structures, and another set of eyes, challenging a timeline for producing a visual painting on/of various subjects."

Besides having Harry's art exhibit at NMCC, his paintings have also been displayed at The Bridgeport Public, Stratford, and Easton Libraries. He has displayed in numerous churches and civic organizations and interviewed on News 12 in Connecticut.

As Harry states: "Art is a relationship. It, and your understanding of it, grows and changes throughout the journey of life. My vision is to spread that relationship with art, so that people do not simply view my art and move on, but rather view it, identify with it, and be inspired by it. There is a story to be shared and interrupted with/by each person, just as there is a conversation to share in each piece of art. And each story grows as one compounds and encounters another experience in life. The medium through which I tell, share, and sell these stories are Gicele's of my depiction of/on various subjects, including a number of ethnic works."



Choose Love Movement with Scarlett Lewis: What if we could prevent another Community shooting from ever happening again? Scarlett Lewis, who lost her son, Jesse Lewis, at the Sandy Hook tragedy, will share her groundbreaking approach to using nurturing and healing love through social and emotional learning (SEL) and character development. See chooselovemovement.org. March 12 at 7:00 pm at NMCC. All are welcome to this profound experience! Good will donations at the door will be given to Choose Love Movement. **Please let us know you will be attending [HERE](#).** Free childcare will be available for attendees 10 and under, if you have registered ahead. Contact Sue Timony-Hall with questions: 203-843-6206.



Caring for One Another Through Covid: On Tuesday, February 21, the Covid Task Force met to discuss our current protocols. We reaffirmed that given current positivity rates, masking during worship will be optional in the center and right-hand sections facing the chancel. Masking and distancing are mandatory in the marked pews on the left side. We are still asking that masks be worn for any and all singing, including hymns and Shalom. Scientists have determined that singing spreads tiny droplets called aerosols much farther than does talking in a normal voice. The choir will continue to mask, and members of the congregation who prefer not to mask throughout the service should bring one to don when singing. We have plenty of masks available for those who need one.



Notes from Your Church Council: At our February meeting, the primary discussion was the Church Growth Retreat led by our Thriving Congregations coach Jim Merhaut. Everyone who attended agreed that the retreat was both meaningful and energizing. On Friday evening we focused on a leadership process that will provide our church leaders with strategies to work more effectively with their boards and teams. On Saturday we had an opportunity to work with the congregational survey that was distributed prior to the retreat. Jim synthesized the survey results into four core values that emerged and organized the survey results around those values. The four values are: being welcoming, open, and affirming; spirituality; creation care; social justice and service. We then had an opportunity to circulate among tables representing each value to brainstorm aspects we already feel we do well and aspects in which we need future growth. This activity provided rich conversation and gave

us some direction for moving forward. We plan to follow up with a small group to identify items on our lists that we might be able to do as early as this spring.

A second important discussion item was the need to educate and invite members of the congregation to participate on the various boards and teams of the church. We elect a new slate of members at our congregational meeting on May 21, and all boards and teams will be looking for new members. We plan a variety of activities to inform and encourage the congregation. We hope that everyone will consider some form of participation since, as Heather says every Sunday, we are all ministers!

If you have any questions about the Church Council or about what is involved in participation on boards and teams, don't hesitate to contact me. Carol Luckenbach, Moderator, csluckenbach@gmail.com



NMCC Welcomes New Members: On Sunday, February 26 NMCC Welcomed the following new members: Kwamena and Mary Blankson, Ed and Peg Cornell (reinstated their membership), Kevin and Sandy Callinan, Brian and Megan Lee, Olivia and Peter Robinson and Jim and Jan McDaniel (Associate Members). New member bios will be sent soon via email.



Office Closure: The church office will be closed from April 10 – April 16, so our entire staff can get some much-needed rest and relaxation. Please plan accordingly in case there are things you need done beforehand. Thank You.



Flowers, Food and Fellowship: If you have been in worship recently, you know that we are slowly returning to our pre-pandemic practices around flowers, food, and fellowship. In order to keep these three important aspects of our life as a congregation moving forward, we need your help! Please sign up in the hallway outside the Sanctuary for:

- **Flowers** - Provide flowers for Sunday worship to honor or memorialize someone or just to provide beauty in the sanctuary. You can sign up for a Sunday in the hallway outside the sanctuary.
- **Food for Fellowship** - Sponsor food donations for coffee hour. Contact Kate Holthausen for details.

And finally, consider joining Kate's team! She needs help with setting up and cleaning up in Fellowship Hall each Sunday as well as with the planning of future events involving food and fellowship. Kate Holthausen, Chair of our Congregational Life and Hospitality Team, (203) 982-0431 or at kgholthausen@gmail.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>.



Earthquake Relief: The news continues to unfold about the devastating earthquake on the border of Turkey and Syria. The death toll continues to rise – numbers are pointing to over 5,000 – depending on the source. This is shattering news and adds to the challenges of the war in this area for over a decade.

The UCC has posted a prayer and short statement in response to this crisis. While the earthquake was on the border, the tremors were felt as far away as Lebanon and Cyprus. At this time, we are issuing an appeal to help recovery efforts in Turkey and Syria. It is hard to tell what other areas are affected or the extent of the damage from this seismic event.

Amid this current uncertainty, you can be certain that with your financial support the United Church of Christ will be there helping those in need. Give generously by clicking [here](#). You may also text UCCDISASTER to 41444. – From Kent Siladi, Director of Philanthropy, UCC

IN THE COMMUNITY



Indaba – space to explore the question "But, what can I do about racism?":

We are looking to engage members of the business, education, law enforcement, civic, religious, municipal and residential communities in the Shoreline area to participate in this community building experience. Thanks to a grant and additional generous donor, it's FREE to you! It opens with a Moth-style storytelling concert followed by a retreat at the beautiful Mercy By The Sea. Subsequent sessions will be held at North Madison Congregational Church (Tuesdays 4:30 to 9:00 pm from March 21 to April 18). Final retreat will be held at Mercy By The Sea. Contact IndabaWorkshop@gmail.com for more information. Denise Page and Merrie Harrison



Dara Horn Conversation: Acclaimed author, Dara Horn, PhD will speak on her recent book, "People Love Dead Jews" at 7:00 pm on Wednesday, March 29, 2023 Yale Building: Sheffield-Sterling-Strathcona Hall, Room 114 (SSS-114), 1 Prospect St., New Haven. Reception with the author to follow. Open to the public.

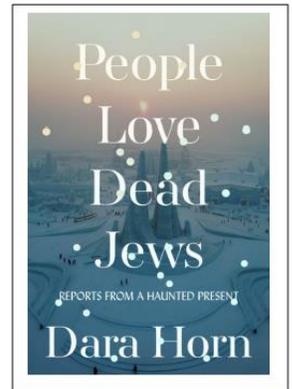
"People Love Dead Jews" was selected as New York Times Notable Book of the Year. Horn's books have also been selected for Booklist's Best 25 Books of the Decade, and San Francisco Chronicle's Best Books of the Year, and have been translated into eleven languages. Her nonfiction work has appeared in *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Washington Post*, *The Atlantic*, *Smithsonian*, and *The Jewish Review of Books*, among many other publications, and she is a regular columnist for *Tablet*.

Dara Horn is the author of 6 books, including the novels, *In the Image*, *The World to Come*, *All Other Nights*, *A Guide for the Perplexed*, and *Eternal Life*, as well as the new essay collection: *People Love Dead Jews*. Horn is the recipient of two National Jewish Book Awards, the Edward Lewis Wallant Award, the Harold U. Ribalow Award, and the Reform Judaism Fiction Prize, and she was a finalist for the JW Wingate Prize, the Simpson Family Literary Prize, and the Carnegie Medal for Excellence in Fiction.

Horn received her doctorate in Yiddish and Hebrew literature from Harvard University. She has held the Gerald Weinstock Visiting Professorship in Jewish Studies at Harvard.

This lecture is part of an Antisemitism Education Initiative at Yale University, supported by a grant from the Academic Engagement Network. It is co-sponsored by The Yale Forum of Jewish Faculty and Friends (YFJF&F), The William F. Buckley, Jr. Program at Yale, and the Slifka Center for Jewish Life at Yale.

Additional support has been provided by The Program in Judaic Studies at Yale, The Yale Program for the Study of Antisemitism, and The Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven.



To RSVP, please use the QR code or this link:
https://yalesurvey.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_0eL6mp0sP02rBLU

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 and we'll be sure to include them.

The following articles were highlighted in the Source and Zip06:

- **Girls Empowerment Workshop** <https://www.zip06.com/news/20230201/nmcc-hosts-empowerment-workshops-for-girls/>
- **Art Exhibit celebrating Black History Month**, <https://www.zip06.com/living/20230216/nmcc-celebrates-black-history-month/> were both highlighted in The Source and Zip06 last month
- **Choose Love Event with Scarlett Lewis**, <https://www.zip06.com/news/20230222/nmcc-to-host-forum-led-by-sandy-hook-mother/>

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