



## THE CIRCLE CHURCH NEWS December 2015

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

The buzz around NMCC these days is palpable. Children's Church is growing, the choir just recorded a new CD, and our fall worship theme of "One People, One God!" has really taken hold.

Indeed, the world *is* one; all people are one. God made all of Creation so that all living things are inextricably linked with a sacred thread that runs through all - our God who also is One!

Christians proclaim this oneness of God as embracing humanity in a visceral way: "the Word became flesh and dwelt among us" (John 1:14). This is the message of the incarnation: Jesus Christ was born into human history in the fullness of time for the salvation of the world. At Christmas we celebrate the first coming of Christ in the birth of Jesus with words "Hark the herald angels sing glory to the new-born king!"

But let's not get ahead of ourselves. We're not there yet. We are now in the season of Advent. Advent comes from the Latin word "adventus" meaning "coming," that is of Christ. It is the season immediately preceding Christmas.

There is tension in Advent: Christ came not only to "save" us, but also to challenge us to follow him. In the words of Rev. Michael Foss,

"The Christian faith is not an accessory to life. Rather it is a coherent way of life, a way of being in the world. Passionate followers of Christ cannot and do not separate their lives into the timeworn categories of the sacred and the secular. ("church" and the rest of one's life.) All is sacred, for Christ is present wherever they are. Faith and life constantly intersect."

As you go about your Christmas shopping and holiday planning keep in mind that Jesus is cute and lovable as a baby, and also courageous and demanding as an adult - as one's Master. A master who does not particularly like fences that divide, faiths that exclude and hearts that close themselves off to those perceived as different.

- A master who would say, "Hand over to me your inner negativity so you can focus on relationships rather than boundaries;"
- A master who, as a baby, had to flee to a foreign land with his parents to escape the political leader of his own country who was intent on killing him; (Matthew 2)
- A master whose own sacred scripture reminded his people: "For the Lord your God...loves the strangers, providing them food and clothing. You shall also love the stranger, for you were once strangers in the land of Egypt." (Deut. 10:18)
- A master who said with exasperation: "Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head." (Matthew 8:20)

A master who urged his followers to take compassionate action in the face of anxiety and uncertainty because the world changes with every small *Namaste* act -

- Every time you forgive, the universe changes;
- Every time you reach out and touch a heart or a life, the world changes;
- With every kindness and service, seen or unseen, God's purposes are accomplished and nothing will ever be the same again.

Don't let Christmas come too soon. There is work to do during Advent. We are called not only to believe in Jesus but also to follow him.

Rev. Jim

## Included in this Newsletter:

### **Letter From Pastor Jim**

### **Advent Schedule**

Worship Services - Christmas Poinsettias

### **Christian Education**

Thank You - Christmas Pageant - Pageant Instrumental Group -  
Junior Youth Group - Senior Youth Group

### **Missions**

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### **Fund Raisers**

NMCC Holiday Craft Fair - NMCC Choir CD - NMCC Virtual Tag Sale - Grocery Cards

### **Get Involved / Stay Connected**

Yoga - Art Show - Reception for Allison Rivera/Living Waters Award -  
St. Martin de Porres - Fire in the Kitchen Concert - Circle Nursery School Pancake Breakfast -  
Congregational Meeting - Open and Affirming Discovery Phase -  
NMCC 4th Annual Christmas Party - Christmas Caroling -  
Special Fundraiser for Kathy & Roger Dann - Donate Your Greeting Cards

### **In the News and Noteworthy**

Amanda Bernier - Clarence Jones - Maureen Jones

### **NMCC Milestones**

## - Advent Schedule -



**Welcome to Advent:** As we celebrate this Advent season, we invite you to experience and explore your spiritual path. While you reach inward to your inner self, also look outward and see the beauty of our church. Hopefully, its enhancements and decorations will inspire you to grow your path.

As we progress through the Advent season, we invite you to be relieved of burdens and stress. Leave it all outside and enter our church as it welcomes you home.

Explore your spiritual path through elements of nature. Let the church pews lead the way to the hope, peace, love and joy of Christmas.

And finally, let us share in the love and celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ. It is His birth that makes our path fruitful.



Our *One People, One God!* Fall worship theme will continue through Advent. Our first Sunday of Advent explores the mystery of Emmanuel "God with us". This aligns with Peck's stage 4 if you're been following the stages of spiritual development we've been exploring (visit our web page at: <http://northmadisoncc.org/photos-media/sermon-podcasts/> to review the sermon series if you're interested or need a refresher. The mystery of Christ's birth will unfold up to Christmas Eve and will include our Christmas Pageant on Christmas Eve.

In addition to the lighting of the Advent candles during Sunday worship and exploring how we can embrace this message, we invite you to join us for any of these special services.

**Children's Christmas Pageant - December 13 at 10:00 am:** The Children's Christmas Pageant is incorporated into the Sunday morning service, re-enacting the story of Jesus' birth.

**Longest Night Service - December 21 at 7:00 pm:** The Longest Night Service is held at the time of the Winter Solstice (December 21st) and recognizes that, in what is generally considered a joyous time of the year, many people experience sadness, melancholy and depression. It may be due to the cold and loneliness of winter, the memories of a lost loved one, the reflection on life's challenges or the concern over a friend or family member. This service provides a safe place to express and attend to that sadness through meditation, readings, music in a quiet candle lit atmosphere at the front of the sanctuary. The service ends with the offering for anyone to come to light a candle and express out loud or in silence the dedication.

**Family Christmas Service - December 24 at 4:30 pm:** This family-friendly service has a focus on Gospel readings about Jesus' birth, and many traditional Christmas Carols.

**Candlelight Communion Service - December 24 at 10:00 pm:** This evening service includes readings, Christmas hymns, a sermon message, and communion and concludes with the lighting of candles.



**Christmas Poinsettias:** If you wish to order a poinsettia to be placed in the sanctuary during the Christmas holidays, please complete this form and place it in the offering plate, or send it to the church office (1271 Durham Road, Madison, CT 06443) by **Sunday, December 13, at the latest.** Following the late Christmas Eve Service, you may take your poinsettia home, or take it to a member who is homebound. **Please make your check payable to NMCC and write "poinsettia" in the memo portion of your check.**

SIZE	PRICE	QUANTITY	TOTAL
Medium red	\$12.50	_____	_____
Large red (3 stems )	\$21.00	_____	_____

Given in:

\_\_\_\_\_ celebration of \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ honor of \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ memory of \_\_\_\_\_

Given by: \_\_\_\_\_

(as you want it to appear in bulletin)

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you so much for helping us to make a joyful prayer with our flowers. - The Flower Committee

## - Christian Education -



### Christian Education Appreciation of THANKS:

*September - November 15th*

Being in the midst of the Thanksgiving season the following people are being thanked for their generosity in giving to our children and teens of our NMCC

family since our year began in September.

**Jeff Ignatuk, Vance Taylor, the SYG, Charlie Shafer, Melinda Clemmons, and Melissa Blundon,** for their wonderfully delivered and often very personal Children's Messages.

Adult teachers **Jill Aboulian, Jeff Ignatuk, Amy Reen** and teen assistants **Hayley Murphy, Elizabeth McCann, Anna Lefante, Gen Garceau, and Erica Mallon** for leading our children in Children's Church classes.

For helping with our fun and increasingly growing Junior Youth Group, **Missy Belcourt, Jen Davies, and Miles Dunn.**

*Our programs are successful because of THEIR dedication and sacrifice of time. To give of your time to our kids, please contact Rene Chin at [o2bachin@comcast.net](mailto:o2bachin@comcast.net).*



**Christmas Pageant:** Please join us for a youth-led worship on December 13<sup>th</sup>. The children will retell the story of the First Christmas through narration, dialogue, and song. Our high-schoolers, middle-schoolers, and younger children are all excited to participate in this year's pageant. We hope to see you there!

There will be a rehearsal for the children on Saturday, December 12<sup>th</sup> at 1pm.



**Instrumental Group for Pageant:** Bill and Ann Clemmons are putting together a special instrumental group to begin our Christmas Pageant. This group is open to anyone who plays an instrument, from beginner to high school, and even some adults! Even if your child is already participating in the Pageant they can be perform in this Interlude as well. I can adjust parts to suit almost any level of playing, and we will play a short

Christmas song to begin the Pageant.

Please email Ann at [william.clemmons@snet.net](mailto:william.clemmons@snet.net) if you think your child might be interested in playing in our group. Please indicate what instrument they play, and how long they have played so I can arrive with suitable parts for them. Also, feel free to email her if you have any questions about this or want more information. Thanks! We hope to hear from many of you....



**Junior Youth Group December Events**

**Saturday December 5: Craft Fair Volunteering AND supporting Circle Nursery**

**School pancake breakfast.** Our JYG will help with the craft fair. They are in charge of the raffle ticket sales for the entire event: collecting donated items by each vendor, setting up the display and then selling tickets. They will announce the winners, distribute the gifts and if possible help with delivering food ordered by the vendors. Please respond to email sent by Rene Chin to sign up for your shift(s).

Keeping our goal in mind of expanding our thinking beyond ourselves while connecting and living God's love, we will be donating the supplies for Circle Nursery School's Pancake breakfast.

This nursery school is an integral part of our church's reach into the community. Please sign up to bring an item on the list emailed.

**Friday, December 18:** The JYG will be visiting and volunteering their holiday spirit with the residents of Ronald McDonald House in New Haven, CT. Meet in church parking lot at 4:30. Pick up your child in the church parking lot at 7:30. They will be leading the families and children in decorating gingerbread houses, playing "pin the nose on the snowman" and playing other Christmas games. Ronald McDonald houses provide a temporary place for families to stay while their child undergoes medical treatment. This is a lovely opportunity for us to extend God's love and holiday cheer to others during a stressful time in their lives.



**Senior Youth Group:** Our next SYG meeting will be **Sunday Dec 13th 6:30-830pm.**

We will have our Christmas party and a Yankee swap. What is a Yankee Swap? Each SYG person will bring in a wrapped gift, each person will then be able to select a gift, open it up and then decide whether to keep the gift or swap with another person. The gift should be no more than \$10. Please let Jeff Chin know if you will be attending.

## - Missions -



**Giving Tree:** NMCC will once again be **ADOPTING A FAMILY** through New Reach's annual Holiday Adopt-A-Family Program. We are asking members of the congregation to please choose a tag off the Giving Tree. Each tag represents one gift that a homeless child in New Haven has requested. Together, we can make the holidays just a little bit brighter for one family in need. Thank you in advance for your generosity. The Adopt-A-Family initiative will end on Sunday, December 7th.

Throughout December, the Giving Tree will also have tags requesting GIFT CARDS to local grocery stores. This initiative was started many years ago when the church stopped collecting frozen turkeys as a way to make sure that families in need in the local area had enough various groceries to create special holiday dinners at Thanksgiving and Christmas for their families. Please consider taking a tag and purchasing a card as way to make the holidays complete for a struggling family. So that our church can also benefit through this initiative, I ask that you please try to purchase your Gift Cards from the NMCC Grocery Card Program.

Please direct any Giving Tree questions to: Allison Rivera / [arivera7777@aol.com](mailto:arivera7777@aol.com) / 203-915-8409



**Columbus  
House**

**Christmas Eve Morning at Columbus House:** A favorite NMCC tradition each year is to bring Christmas cheer to residents of the Columbus House in New Haven. We serve an expanded breakfast at 6:30 AM (NEW start time), the choir and other NMCC singers join in Christmas hymns, carols and a special choir anthem or two and we distribute presents purchased and wrapped by NMCC families. We'll have the gift boxes ready on December 6<sup>th</sup>. Please join in this year!!!

We need:

- Wrapped hats, gloves/mittens, scarves and socks, noting on the package whether they are for men, women or children and the size. Not only do the recipients welcome the warm clothing for themselves, but also are able to give extras as gifts to family members.
- Gift cards in \$5 and \$10 denominations from Subway, Dunkin Donuts or McDonalds for a cold winter's day warm up.
- Singers!
- Sign up to bring food - on the bulletin board or items such as fruit or muffins.

If you have any questions, contact Scott Conover at [scottconover56@gmail.com](mailto:scottconover56@gmail.com), Roberta Hanlon at [robertahanlon@msn.com](mailto:robertahanlon@msn.com), or Peter Meier at [peterm190@yahoo.com](mailto:peterm190@yahoo.com).

## - Fund Raisers -



**21st Annual NMCC Holiday Craft Fair:** Saturday, December 5<sup>th</sup> from 9am-2pm: 40 Quality Artisans; Bistro; Over 4000 Homemade Cookies; Gifts. Hope to see you at the fair!

### **Holiday Craft Fair Help Needed!!!**

**Cookie Bakers Needed:** Our Holiday Fair is on December 5<sup>th</sup> and we are known for our Christmas cookies!! We always sell out early so we need many bakers to reach our goal of 4,000 or more cookies!! It's our best potential for upside sales this year.

If you are making 4 dozen....you might as well make 8!! The first to sell are cookies that "look like Christmas" and are small enough to fit into the cookie box. So here are some tips:

- Think red, green or dusting with confectionary sugar. *Get creative:* Chocolate chip - how about red and green M&Ms? Or oatmeal with Craisins? Dust molasses and chocolate cookies with confectionery sugar.
- Size and type matter: Smaller cookies fit better into the boxes and allow more to pick from and thin, delicate cookies break easily so avoid these.
- Label your cookies with a little tented card or we'll make one for you - PLEASE note if cookies contain nuts and gluten free would be a wonderful addition.

Please sign up on the bulletin board or send a note to the office with how many dozen you will bake, what type and how to contact you (email and phone). Youth group helpers welcomed! We also need cookie packers on the day of the Fair. Any questions call or email Linda Young at 203-457-0723, [lindaluy@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lindaluy@sbcglobal.net). Thank you in advance!!!!

**Posters for the Craft Fair:** If you are able to distribute posters for the Craft Fair, please see or contact Carol Anne Bachhuber 203-747-4840 [cabachhuber@yahoo.com](mailto:cabachhuber@yahoo.com)

**Help at the Cookie Booth** - Sign up for a shift from 9:00am to 2:00 pm in Fellowship Hall or call or email Linda Young at 203-457-0723, [lindaluy@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lindaluy@sbcglobal.net).

**Karen's Café:** Popular with shoppers and vendors, Karen's Café offers homemade soups/chili, turkey pot pies and cider. How can you help? We need helpers to make soup (recipes provided) and help in the kitchen. Sign up in Fellowship Hall or contact Melissa Blunden, [pdblundon@aol.com](mailto:pdblundon@aol.com) or 203-996-0671.

**Craft Fair Set Up/Clean Up:** We need some strong volunteers to help set up tables and move furniture on Friday, December 4<sup>th</sup> from around 3-5pm and cleanup after the fair at 2pm on December 5<sup>th</sup>. If you're able to help out, please contact the office at [office@northmadisoncc.org](mailto:office@northmadisoncc.org) or 203-421-3241 or sign up on the sheet in fellowship hall. Please contact Christine Hopkins at [christeyo@aol.com](mailto:christeyo@aol.com) or 203-421-3358 if you have any questions.



**Do You Love our NMCC Choir?:** If so . . . Soon you will have the opportunity to have a CD of our choir singing to play at home or in your car -- enabling you to hear them ANYTIME !

On November 14, the choir worked enthusiastically all day with professional recording artist, Mike Arafah, to record a new CD of choir favorites. It will be available in December --- just in time for Christmas giving--- so be thinking about how many you wish to have!!! Donation: \$15



**NMCC Virtual Tag Sale:** Have an item you'd like to donate? Contact Roberta Hanlon for details ([robertahanlon@msn.com](mailto:robertahanlon@msn.com) or call/text 203-500-8311). For more info on items currently for sale on Craig's list, see the Deacon Bulletin board.

- Wood Mobile Pet Pen \$40  
<http://newhaven.craigslist.org/for/5281301443.html>
- Modern Danish Teak China Cabinet \$175  
<http://newhaven.craigslist.org/fuo/5312987955.html>
- Tea Cart Drop Leaf with Drawer \$50  
<http://newhaven.craigslist.org/fuo/5312985180.html>



**Grocery Card Fund Raiser:** Feed the church when you buy groceries using grocery cards purchased at NMCC. Grocery cards are available every Sunday morning after service in fellowship hall for Stop and Shop, Robert's, Big Y, and Shop Rite. Buy these grocery cards from us to use at the grocery stores where you normally shop. You pay face value, your grocery card is worth face value, and NMCC earns five cents on the dollar of every grocery card you purchase. It's really that simple! We're looking for volunteers to help sell cards after church. Please contact Calvin Price at [wildwood9@msn.com](mailto:wildwood9@msn.com) or 203-245-8566 if you're able to help out.

## - Get Involved / Stay Connected -



There are so many ways to get involved in making NMCC a vibrant community not only through the work of the Missions Committee but helping out, sharing your skills, learning new ones enjoying the fellowship that naturally follows through working on projects together. Visit our "Get Involved" web page for ongoing news at [northmadisoncc.org](http://northmadisoncc.org).



**Yoga:** Our current Yoga series will run through Monday December 14th, resuming in January. There will be no class on Monday December 21<sup>st</sup> due to our Longest Night service.

Beginners- experienced yogis are welcome. The session price will be \$42.00 with a drop in rate of \$9.00/evening. As the colder, sloppy weather approaches, please remember to take off your shoes as you enter to keep our practice space clean.

Questions? Contact Karen Chapman at (203) 421-4834 or [krchapman@comcast.net](mailto:krchapman@comcast.net).



**Art Show:** A new art show is up in Fellowship Hall featuring our NMCC Senior Youth Group's Mission Trips from 2011- 2015. The photos were taken by members of the youth group and Jeff Chin.



### **Reception for Allison Rivera, UCC Winner of the Living Waters**

**Award - Sunday, December 6:** Each year the Connecticut Conference gives an award at an Annual Meeting to one or more laypersons whose activity in the workplace or community makes a difference for others. The Living Waters Award

is so named to reflect our understanding that all Christians are called to ministry by virtue of their baptism into Christ, and honors lay persons who clearly make the connection between their faith and daily life.

Persons honored by The Living Waters Award are those who work for justice, live ethically, build community, and promote the common good in their workplaces and in their communities. This award recognizes outstanding Christian ministry, life, and witness that is done OUTSIDE the church setting as an expression of one's faith. This year NMCC's nomination, Allison Rivera, was selected as one of the winners of this award and honored at the Annual Connecticut UCC Meeting in Newington in October. Some of the highlights of her nomination are noted in the ceremony bulletin at the event:

Allison Rivera is the President of St. Martin de Porres Academy in New Haven. She has been with St. Martin's from its inception. St. Martin's is a faith-based, tuition-free Middle School that offers an extended day education to underserved girls and boys from low-income families in the New Haven area. Each student is seen as a unique child of God. In her work as the President she recruits the best possible teachers committed to the mission and ministry of the school. Volunteer tutors and others play an important role in the schools success. Allison stays connected to the students who have graduated in a variety of ways.

Allison volunteers for other organizations and programs that care for the most vulnerable. She is on the Board of Directors of New Reach, an organization in New Haven that finds housing and stability for women and their children. She supports the work of Columbus House whose mission is to serve people who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless by providing shelter and housing and by fostering their personal growth and independence.

Please join us during Fellowship Hour to honor Allison and celebration her award, followed by a presentation by Allison where she will share St Martin de Porres Academy story, dedicated to making a difference, one child at a time, in New Haven.



### **Saint Martin de Porres Academy - Join us on Sunday,**

**December 6 at 11:30 am:** NMCC provides not only Missions funding for [Saint Martin de Porres Academy](#), an independent faith-

based, Nativity Miguel Network middle school located in New Haven, but also has been discovered by NMCC volunteer tutors and teachers as a rewarding way to spend time each week making a difference in the lives of the youth who attend.

The goal of St. Martin is to end the cycle of poverty through education, one precious child at a time. The Academy provides tuition free: extended day education for under-served girls and boys from low-income families in grades 5 through 8. Students attend school for 10-hours a day, 11-months of the year. Each student plays an instrument and participates in daily co-curricular enrichment activities, which include sports, arts, service, cooking, and other similar programs. The majority of the teaching staff is made up of AmeriCorps Teaching Fellows.

Please join NMCC member and St. Martin de Porres Academy President, [Allison Rivera](#), on Sunday December 6th after Fellowship to learn more about this incredible organization and why so many NMCC volunteers embrace the Academy programs and serve with joy.



**Fire in the Kitchen Concert - The Barefoot Movement Holiday Show - December 6 (Sunday), 7pm:** Back by popular demand, last year they were one of the most talked-about shows. A friend of the series was up at a UCONN graduation ceremony, and she overheard the folks in front of her talking about this cool little church that had this great Christmas bluegrass show, and how it was one of the best nights of music she'd ever had, anywhere, and that included New York, Boston, L.A., and so on. Well, it turned out that lady was here, watching the Barefoot Movement. They are too cool. And if you think this is just some ordinary show, they are Telluride Best Band winners, Billboard chart toppers, etc. Yeah, they may be really fun, but they can play!! Total family fun!! Adults \$25, kids high school and under, \$5.00.



**Circle Nursery School - Pancake Breakfast, December 12, 8am- 11am:** - Circle Nursery School is hosting their annual Pancake Breakfast with Santa on Saturday December 12 from 8am - 11am in Fellowship Hall. Pancakes, sausage, OJ and coffee will be served. Bring your camera and go downstairs after breakfast and take your child's picture with Santa. This event is open to the entire community! Price: \$6 adult, \$3 child.



**Congregational Meeting:** There will be a meeting for Members of North Madison Congregational Church on Sunday, December 13, following coffee hour. The purpose of the meeting is to vote to approve the church's 2015 budget.



**Open and Affirming:** At the November 11 Executive Committee Meeting, we approved a motion to begin the discovery phase of becoming an Open and Affirming (ONA) UCC Congregation, as First Church Madison, First Church Guilford, and the North Haven Congregational Church have done.

Churches adopting an ONA covenant welcome all of God's people independent of race, ethnicity, gender, and sexual orientation/expression/identity. In particular, an ONA church welcomes LGBT seekers, supports their relationships, and advocates for their basic rights. ONA churches take seriously the Bible's admonition to "accept one another, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God" (Romans 15:7, NIV).

A congregation adopts an ONA covenant after a time of study, dialogue, reflection, and prayer. While each congregation has the freedom to design its own ONA process, typically churches explore

in depth the basic teachings of scripture, contemporary perspectives on, for example, diversity, racism, and sexual orientation, and listen to the testimonies of affected groups.

The motion that passed the NMCC Executive Committee Meeting reads as follows:

**Whereas God's people of the North Madison Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, believe that God loves us unconditionally and that, in God's image, we strive to express that love to all creation, the Executive Committee hereby affirms a process to examine becoming an Opening and Affirming community. A process outline will be constructed by current members of the Sexuality Education Group together with additional volunteers. The outline is to be presented to the Executive Committee on or about January 13, 2016.**

Please contact Peter Meier by e-mail ([peterm190@yahoo.com](mailto:peterm190@yahoo.com)) or phone (at 203-421-8377) if you would like to participate in organizing the aforementioned ONA discovery process. The first meeting of the group will be in early December.



**NMCC 4th Annual Christmas Party - Sunday December 13:** NMCC will be having its fourth annual Christmas Party on Sunday, December 13 from 3:00p.m. - 6:00p.m. at the home of Heather and Nate Atwater, 241 Summer Hill Road in Madison. Come and celebrate the season with your NMCC friends!

A sign up sheet will be in Fellowship Hall-all you have to do is sign up and let us know what you will be bringing (appetizer, drink or dessert). You can also call or email the church office with this information at 203-421-3241, [office@northmadisoncc.org](mailto:office@northmadisoncc.org).

If you have questions, please call one of our committee members: Orlene Gallops, Karen Chapman, Joyce Rivera, Paul DiBello, Marilyn Linn or Nancy Conover.



**NMCC Family Fellowship! Annual Christmas Caroling Party!** Hosted by Bill and Ann Clemmons each year, this is a fun evening of Fellowship and an opportunity to bring cheer to local nursing homes residents and members who are homebound. The evening begins with pot luck soup and appetizers followed by carpooling and singing Christmas carols that bring smiles at every stop. The evening ends with dessert and warm beverages. We will meet at the Clemmons' house, 126 Deepwood Drive, **at 5:00 PM on Friday, December 18.** Please sign up first and then dress warmly and bring a snack or dessert to share, and a flashlight. This is an all-ages, family oriented event. Please contact Bill and Ann Clemmons, 421-3484 or [william.clemmons@snet.net](mailto:william.clemmons@snet.net) with questions.



**Special Fundraiser for Kathy & Roger Dann:** As many of you know, Kathy and Roger Dann were both critically injured in a devastating car accident last November in Madison and are still dealing with medical challenges. As so often happens, their medical and ongoing expenses are quite large, and not all covered by insurance. Many thanks from the Dann family for your support at the Fundraiser event at the Windwoods.

Between now and Christmas Eve, NMCC member Clarence Jones will donate 10% of the sales of his book, *Triumph*, to the Danns on every book that is sold at R J Julia's between October 22 and Christmas Eve, 2015.



**Donate Your Greeting Cards:** Our Prayer Ministry sends over 50 cards each year and would like to send more. If you have extra cards that could be put to better use than taking up space at your home, please drop them off in Fellowship Hall in the marked basket near the door. We're looking for: Christmas, sympathy, thinking of you, get well soon, baby, graduation or blank cards. If you have questions, please see Linda Young, [lindaluy@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lindaluy@sbcglobal.net).

## - In the News & 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 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!

**Amanda Bernier** was pictured in the November 5 edition of *The Source*. She received the 2015 Connecticut District Exchange Club's Salute to Connecticut's Bravest award.

There was an article in *The Source* on November 12 about **Clarence Jones'** donation of 10% of his book sales of *Triumph* through Thursday, Dec. 24 to the Dann Family's medical expenses.

**Maureen Jones** was featured as the Person of the Week in the November 26 edition of *The Source*. The article highlighted her service to the community including her volunteering at NMCC.

## - NMCC Milestones -

### **New Members 10/25/15:**

Ken Nichols; Martha Nichols; Ryan Skultety; Lauren Skultety; Theresa Paulsen; Matthew Paulsen

### **Baptisms:**

10/4/15 Miles Dunn; 10/11/15 Michael Fred Reen; 11/8/15 Timothy Matthew Paulsen;  
11/22/15 Dylan Matthew Francis Bianchi

## Office, Board and Committee Contacts:

Rev. Jim Latimer, Pastor	203-421-3241	Office Managers, Cathy Meier & Jackie Fix	203-421-3241
Christian Education, Rene Chin	203-421-3498	Minister of Music, Linda Juliani	860-399-0210
Senior Youth Group Leader, Jeff Chin	203-421-3498	Choir Director, Bill Clemmons	203-421-3484
Junior Youth Group Leaders, Rene Chin or Karen Murphy	203-421-3498 203-481-7597	Circle Nursery School Co-Directors: Donna Perry, Kathy Niejadlik	203-421-0997

### OFFICERS

Executive Committee Chair, Tom Lauher	203-530-7467
Executive Committee Vice Chair, Jim Farrales	203-421-9323
Members of the Board of Deacons*:	See Below
Clerk, Eileen McCann	203-318-0068
Assistant Clerk, Calvin Price	203-245-8566
Treasurer, Holly Francis	203-245-7331
Assistant Treasurer, John Gallops	860-460-8573
Financial Secretary - Disbursements, Cathy Meier	203-421-8377
Financial Secy. of Receipts, Susan O'Connor	203-457-1559
Asst. Financial Secretary - Disbursements - Open	
Asst. Financial Secretary - Receipts - Open	

\* Roberta Hanlon 203-421-4891; Jim Connolly 203-421-1184; Kate Davis 203-421-5848; Dawn Barber 203-457-1868; Sandy Dickson 203-421-1178; Beth Berestecky 203-421-3210; Kristin Polisky 203-421-1175; Carol Anne Bachhuber 203-747-4840; Ann Damarjian 860-669-5639; Miles Dunn 203-988-1993

### BOARDS/COMMITTEES

Board of Christian Ed Chair, Rene Chin	203-421-3498
Board of Deacons Chair, Roberta Hanlon	203-421-4891
Board of Finance Chair, Jim Farrales	203-421-9323
Communications Chair, Roberta Hanlon	203-421-4891
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