

THE CIRCLE CHURCH NEWS
November 2016

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

Events in our community and world are pressing us to be clearer than ever about our core values and commitments as human beings and as people of Christian faith. There are lots of bandwagons circulating these days inviting us to get on board with their particular battle cry. In times like these it's easy to find yourself saying things - via internet, Facebook, a remark at the gym or in the grocery store check-out line - which even a couple months ago you would not have said. You would have known better. The influence of the group is powerful.

Reinhold Niebuhr, a Protestant theologian and former professor at Union Theological Seminary in NYC, wrote a seminal book in 1932 about ethics entitled, "Moral Man and Immoral Society." In it he demonstrates that people often behave more morally as individuals than they do in groups. Current events in America, and throughout the world, demonstrate this is as true now as it was then.

In our collective faith life at NMCC we've had rich opportunities recently to help us gain this clarity about how we really do want to live our lives - to what end and how. Amanda and Chris Bernier taught us the value of faith in the Living God as an indispensable resource for walking bravely, lovingly and unselfishly along the path of ALS. Our Open and Affirming Process Discernment Team is reminding us of the life-giving power of the necessity of a safe place for people to be able to accept themselves fully as God created them, rather than as society says they should be. And our Generosity Testimonies in Sunday worship speak to the challenge and the joy of using one's money to express one's deepest values rather than giving in to the superficially induces wants and needs of a consumerist culture.

Given the above, Election Day, November 8, is especially important. I urge you to be a voter not a non-voter. I urge you to use your vote to express your core values as a human being of faith. A democratic society cannot exist unless its citizens take their right to vote as a responsibility and an obligation. So vote! If you don't like any of the choices of the ballot, then write in the name of someone you prefer. All ballots have Write-In options.

And after November 8, I urge you to refrain from overt celebrations if your candidate won. Some will be grieving. You will probably have a family member or friend who voted differently that you did. Be respectful. Listen. Foster the healing our community and nation will need after such a civic fabric-rendering election period.

Your Friend in Christ and a voter,

Pastor Jim

Included in this Newsletter:

Letter From Pastor Jim Children and Youth Ministries

Children's Church – Junior Youth Group

Fund Raisers

Harvest Dinner – Fire in the Kitchen – Yoga - Grocery Cards - Tag Sale

Get Involved / Stay Connected

Remembrance Sunday - Crafters Wanted – Generosity Team - Open and Affirming

In the News and Noteworthy

Vanessa Vradenburgh - Rachel and Melissa Blundon

Condolences

Family of Herb Thomas

- Children and Youth Ministries -



Children's Church (*preschool - 8th grade*): Thank you to our first group of **volunteer teachers and assistants** who welcomed our little ones into Children's Church after a nice long summer! Thanks go to **Amy Reen, Missy Belcourt, Jeff**

Ignatuk and Jordyn Belcourt, Lauren Miller, and Hayley Murphy. Special thanks to **Erica Mallon and Elizabeth McCann** for their leadership in running the classrooms for month while addressing a civic need for school.

We have appreciated the **children's messages** that **Ben Chasse, Heather Ignatuk, the SYG, Peter Meier, Ethan Feldman, and Erica and Elizabeth** have shared with not just the children, but all of us worshipping together on Sundays.

The Christmas Pageant is underway with its debut during the worship service on Sunday, December 4th. Our dress rehearsal will be on Saturday, December 3rd at 4pm. I have spoken with many of your children and they have secured their part in the Pageant. If your child will be here and hasn't received a part, please reach out to me to make sure your child has a special part in the Pageant. Thanks!

With gratitude for our children, teens and families,

Rene Chin at o2bachin@comcast.net



Jr. Youth Group

Junior Youth Group (*7th-8th graders*): This group of preteens has done a fast job at feeling comfortable with each other. We are singing, laughing, working, zipping, chopping, cooking and talking! We are not only serving others, but getting closer as a group and really learning to work together.

Saturday November 5th: prepping ALL salads for the Harvest Dinner. Working two shifts and bonding as never before!

Friday November 18th from 6-8pm at church: doing for others (activity shared that evening) and having some fun!

Saturday: December 3rd 9-2pm: running the raffle at the Church Christmas Craft Fair. Details coming soon!

To ask questions OR to be added to the email distribution list, please contact Rene Chin at o2bachin@comcast.net

- Fund Raisers -



Harvest Dinner: Come join us for an evening & meal to remember! Dine in, or - back by popular demand - our fabulous *take-out option!* The delicious meal starts with salad and our famous dressing, homemade pumpkin muffins followed by platters of roast turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes and gravy, mashed turnips, fresh green beans, cranberry sauce, ending with home-baked apple or pumpkin pie and beverages. *Wow!*

<u>When?</u>	Saturday November 5, 2016 2 Seatings: 5:00 pm and 6:30 pm Take-out 5:00-7:00 pm
<u>Where?</u>	North Madison Congregational Church
<u>Cost?</u>	\$20 per person \$16 seniors (age 65 and over) \$10 children 12 and under \$16 generous take-out meal

Reservations required. Email the NMCC office at office@northmadisoncc.org and note on the subject line "Harvest Dinner" or call 203-421-3241. Parties of 4 or more should send payment in advance to NMCC Harvest Dinner, 1271 Durham Road, Madison, CT 06443. See you there!

Here are some ways you can help with the Harvest Dinner:

- Sign up to bake a turkey for the Harvest Dinner!
- Wednesday, 11/2 at 5pm: Turkey Pickup (bake and deliver to church on Saturday 11/5)
- Thursday, 11/3 at 4pm: Snap Chat (snapping green beans) in Fellowship Hall
- Friday, 10/4 at 9am: Peel and cut apples in Fellowship Hall
- Friday, 10/4 at 5pm: Celery and onion chopping in Fellowship Hall
- Sign up to volunteer the night of the dinner



Fire in the Kitchen Concert: Join us on **Saturday, November 12 at 7:00pm for 9 Horses.** There's no description of the classical-to free jazz-to bluegrass stuff they play. Usually they're all soloing with major symphonies around the world, every now and then they get together and do this -- Whatever "this" is. Ashley's ice cream included -- adults \$25, kids high school and under, \$5.00. For details and reservations, go to <http://fireinthekitchen.org>



Yoga: The next session will begin on Monday 11/7 and continue through 12/19. We meet Mondays at 6:30pm. Total session price = \$49.00. We will continue our drop -in option and the cost will be \$10.00.

On a housekeeping note:

- Please remember to sign in to class each week.
- Now that the weather will be crummier, it is also important to take your shoes off at the door. This is standard practice at every yoga practice space. No worries, the floors are washed each week between church on Sunday and our class. Thank you!

Any questions, please contact Karen chapman at krchapman@comcast.net.



Grocery Card Fund Raiser: Feed the church when you buy groceries using grocery cards purchased at NMCC. Grocery cards for Stop and Shop, Robert's, Big Y, and Shop Rite are available every Sunday morning after service in fellowship hall. Buy these grocery cards from us to use at the 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! Come visit our selling representatives after worship in fellowship hall and buy your cards!

If you'd like to volunteer to help sell cards after church, please contact Calvin Price at wildwood9@msn.com or 203-245-8566.



NMCC Virtual Tag Sale: Have an item you'd like to donate? Contact Roberta Hanlon for details (robertahanlon@msn.com or call/text 203-500-8311). For info on the following items currently for sale on Craig's list, visit the our [NMCC Tag Sale web site](#) for the link to each item or visit the Deacon bulletin board.

- Modern Danish Teak China Cabinet - \$75 - *New Price!*
- Antique Cannonball Andirons - \$30
- Matching Book cases - \$100
- Wood/Glass Coffee Table - \$50
- Five Vintage Ladder Back Rush Chairs - \$190

- 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.



Service of Remembrance and Thanksgiving - November 6, 2016 at

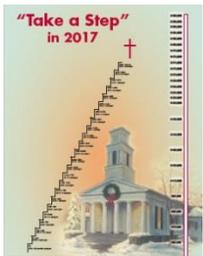
10AM: A special worship service, a day in which the church remembers those faithful people who have gone into eternity and live now with God. We remember your loved ones in a special way, and prayers of thanksgiving to God will be offered.



Crafters Wanted: 22nd Annual Holiday Craft Fair at North Madison

Congregational Church. December 3, 2016 9:00 am to 2:00 pm. To apply visit our web site: <http://northmadisoncc.org/calendar-events/craft-fair/> or call 203-421-3241

for more information.



Generosity Team: The 2016 Generosity Season came to a close on October 30th with the dedication and blessing of our 2017 pledges on Gratitude Sunday. As "a welcoming spiritual community seeking to deepen relationship with God", we are a truly generous fellowship "sharing the joy of love and service".

During the past four weeks, we have again brought food for the Madison Food Pantry, heard personal testimonials on giving from members of our community, heard a young-person's and an adult's Pay-It-Forward story, seen the generosity stories written on cutouts of their hands, and suggested the following as what to do were we able to exceed our giving beyond the budget's needs by \$4000:

- Air Conditioning in the Sanctuary (twice)
- New pew cushions and carpeting
- Resettle an Afghan or Syrian family (twice)
- Camp scholarship(s)
- Donate food to the needy; host a lunch with the food we grow in our garden
- Support local animal shelters
- Plant/donate more fresh food from a larger sustainable garden
- Split between - sanctuary paint/youth groups/missions/gift cards for members in need
- Elevator or stair chair for handicapped
- Big "Open and Affirming" sign
- Add to investments
- Haitian storm relief
- Military-family support
- Stabilize the budget and form a long-term plan for CE and a Sexton
- Fix someone's home or yard

Please seriously consider "Taking a Step" up in your 2017 giving



Open and Affirming (ONA): As the wonderful Sunday-morning greetings from Pastor Jim extend Christ's open table to all our members and guests, an ONA covenant is a visible and public commitment that we will follow Jesus' teachings and show that we are Christians through our Love and welcoming acceptance of all of God's creation.

We are nearing the end of our year-long ONA discernment process. Three important events remain.

1. **A post-worship workshop including lunch will be held on November 20th.** The objective of the workshop is to share with others our personal ONA stories and impressions, in small groups.
2. **Private individual meetings** for those who desire to meet with the pastor and/or an ONA Team member to voice/discuss ONA issue(s) may be arranged for either Tuesday, November 29th, 3-5 PM or Wednesday, November 30, 7-9 PM. Should you wish to take advantage of this opportunity, call or e-mail the church office (office@northmadisoncc.org) and schedule an appointment during one of these times.
3. **The agenda for the Annual Meeting on December 11 will include a motion to adopt an Open-and-Affirming Covenant**, according to the resolution below. Adoption of the covenant will register us with the United Church of Christ as an Open and Affirming church, joining our three Consociation members who have also adopted a similar covenant: First Church, Madison, First Church, Guilford, and the North Haven Congregational Church.

Motion for Annual Meeting on December 11, 2016

WHEREAS the Open and Affirming Process Discernment Team of the North Madison Congregational Church has conducted a year-long program of examining and discussing the issues surrounding the adoption of a public commitment to become an Open and Affirming Church in the United Church of Christ, and

WHEREAS the discernment process resulted in the majority opinion of the community that we should adopt a public commitment to become an Open and Affirming Church in the United Church of Christ,

BE IT RESOLVED THAT The Community of North Madison Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, adopt, live, and make public the following covenant.

We, the members of North Madison Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, grateful to God for creating us in our rich variety, gather to worship and serve; each one a Saint and a Sinner. We come - old and young, confident and vulnerable, black, brown and white, differently-abled, straight and LGBTQ - all seeking God's face and eager to hear God's word for our lives. As followers of Jesus, we call on ourselves to be servants and lovers in an unjust and needy world. Upheld by the Spirit, we welcome the authenticity of each other and the imagination and strength of a safe and loving community called to witness God's love for the world.

ONA Process-Discernment Team: Gail Benson, Diana Boice, Lyn Boling, Sandy Dickson, Holly Francis, Donna Gardner, Jacob Griffith-Gardner, Gail Faithfull, Susan Kenney, Larry Kilburn, Rev. James Latimer, Cathy Meier, Peter Meier, Allison Rivera, Sanna Stanley, Kate Summerlin, David Summerlin. Advisor - Ms. Cecile Gilson, Executive Assistant to the Connecticut Conference Minister, CTUCC, Hartford.

- 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 and we'll be sure to include them!

Vanessa Vradenburgh was pictured and mentioned in a September 22 article in *The Source* about her role in Artful Living's theater presentation of *Lend Me a Tenor*.

Rachel and Melissa Blundon were pictured in an article in the November 2016 Edition of *Madison Neighbors*, along with a nice write-up about Madison Earth Care.

- Condolences -



Condolences to the Family of Herb Thomas: Former NMCC member, Herb Thomas passed away on October 14 in Arizona after an 11-year struggle with cancer. There will be a memorial service in North Carolina on a future date to be determined. Condolences can be sent to Herb's family at 1236 Mulberry Ave., Charlotte, NC 28216-5112.

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, Keith Luckenbach	203-421-5054
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	

*Dawn Barber 203-457-1868; *Beth Berestecky 203-421-3210; Sandy Dickson 203-421-1178; Kristin Polisky 203-421-1175; Carol Anne Bachhuber 203-747-4840; Ann Damarjian 860-669-5639; Miles Dunn 203-988-1993; Karen Miller 203-915-2989; John Nassif 203-421-5374

BOARDS/COMMITTEES

Board of Christian Ed Chair, Rene Chin	203-421-3498
Board of Deacons Co- Chair, Dawn Barber and Beth Berestecky	203-457-1868 203-421-3210
Board of Finance Chair, Jim Farrales	203-421-9323
Communications Chair, Roberta Hanlon	203-421-4891
Deacon’s Service Chair, Melissa Blundon	203-996-0671
Fellowship Chair, TBD	
Human Resources Chair, Holly Francis	203-245-7331
Missions Chair, Kate Summerlin	203-453-0700
Music Chair, Heather Crawford	203-421-5670
Nominating Committee Chair, Calvin Price	203-245-8566
Pastoral Relations, Chair, Peter Meier	203-421-8377
Property & Planning Chair, Tom Lauher	203-530-7467
Quiet Ministry Chair, Linda Young	203-457-0723
Generosity Team Co-Chairs, Miles Dunn and Peter Meier	203-988-1993 203-421-8377



Online Giving Available on our Website: Visit the church website at www.NorthMadisonCC.org, click on “Online Giving” in the headers at the top of the page and follow the instructions. Or scan to pay or give →

