



THE CIRCLE CHURCH NEWS

October 2015

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

Sunday, September 13, was wonderful! Being "Homecoming Sunday" - the start of Children's Church, the return of the choir and engaging ministries of many kinds - the sanctuary was filled with kids and adults to the glory of God! A spirit of learning, exploration and connecting with Life at a deeper level is afoot at NMCC.

In my time serving you I've been impressed by your faithfulness, curiosity about life, authentic desire to engage Life at a deeper level and to explore the Divine in all its facets. This was especially revealed during our GFWP Summer Potlucks and the sermon topic suggestion inserts that many of you submitted last spring.

In response, the Worship Team is planning a worship theme that will begin Sunday, October 4, and continue into Advent: "One People, One God?" It will feature and invite you to explore many of your questions and passions such as:

1. What do we mean by "God?"

- Our understanding of "God" reflects our understanding of our world and lived experience - our perceived reality.

2. The many names humanity has for the Holy - and their implications - offered by the historic religious traditions of Buddhism, Islam, Judaism, Christianity and Hinduism.

3. The influence of Dualism and how its gift of helping us hold differing perspectives by simplifying them can create misleading reductions of reality and negative consequences.

- "Religion makes us violent when we insist on making the uncertain certain." (Yvette Flunder)

4. The four stages of faith development in human beings observed by M. Scott Peck. He calls them: Chaos, Need for External Structure, Skeptic and Mystic.

5. And finally, the gift of Mysticism and the new consciousness it brings that emphasizes relationship rather than beliefs, doctrine, and boundaries. Christianity has its "Contemplatives," Islam has its Sufis and Judaism has its Kabbalah.

- "Mystic" - one who has moved from mere belief systems or belonging systems to actual inner experience. (Richard Rohr)

Along the way you will also be invited to renew your baptism vows (October 4), remember those loved ones who have passed on (Remembrance Sunday, November 1), and express your Gratitude to God with the blessing of our pledges on November 15.

Your friend on the Journey of Faith,
Pastor Jim

Included in this Newsletter:

Letter From Pastor Jim Getting Focused with Purpose Christian Education

Children's Church - Crop Walk - Junior Youth Group

Missions

The Giving Tree - Quest for Peace Presentation - Collection for Nicaragua
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- Getting Focused with Purpose (GFWP) -



GFWP is a process designed to help us effectively link the internal with the external by matching the gifts/talents of NMCC with the needs of the wider community. Or, how do you as a vessel of God use your gifts to become to a vessel for God in our community?

Our next GFWP activity will take place on Sunday, October 25 after worship, lunch included, where we expect to come to an agreement so we can move forward and take action. We look forward to seeing you on October 25.

- Christian Education -



Sunday, October 4th - Worship as a family on this communion Sunday. Help your child understand how our service works by engaging them in reading the Call to Worship, praying as a collective group, offering a kind hello to others, and singing the hymns. *Our NMCC family includes all; ALL of us with our gifts and our needs, as well as our beloved children.*



Sunday, October 4th - FAMILY Crop Walk: Meet at Guilford Green at 1:00pm. Please look for Karen Murphy who will be collecting your forms. She will have blank ones for you if you decide to walk at the last minute. Please consider taking time to walk for those who are hungry.



Friday, October 16th - Junior Youth Group. Cooking for others in Fellowship Hall from 7-9pm. Please contact Rene Chin (o2bachin@comcast.net) to receive emails about events.

- Missions -



The Giving Tree: The Giving Tree is an actual tree with branches that resides in Fellowship Hall and offers opportunities for our members to reach out to people from our church and surrounding communities. There are decals that hang from the tree, which contain various service options that range from purchasing a gift card, food, or household items from a local supermarket to helping out women and children at a New Haven Shelter. Organizations such as Columbus House, The CT Food Bank,

The Shoreline Soup Kitchen, New Reach, St. Martin de Porres Academy, New Haven Youth Continuum, the Clinton Food Pantry, Madison Social Services, and The Madison Food Pantry are just some that we support. Members of our church community are encouraged to visit the tree periodically to choose a service opportunity to carry out. Every 2 weeks we plan to add new decals and will give you details about the folks in need.

Email or call [Allison Rivera](mailto:arivera7777@aol.com) at 203-915-8409, 203-915-8409, arivera7777@aol.com.



Quest for Peace Presentation, Oct. 18: For many years, North Madison Congregational Church has collected goods and clothing to send to those in need in Nicaragua via the nonprofit organization Quest for Peace. On October 18, we will be fortunate to have Bill Evans, the president of Connecticut Quest for Peace, come speak with us about this important work.

Quest for Peace was founded in 1987 with a mission of helping the poorest people in Nicaragua, currently the second poorest county in the Western hemisphere. The small aid group, which has no paid staff, has worked with proven Nicaraguan organizations to provide humanitarian assistance in educational, health-care, home-building, and microfinance initiatives, primarily direct to the concerns and needs of women and children. The ultimate aim is to give the people of Nicaragua the tools they need to create sustainable communities.

One of Quest for Peace's main projects – and the one NMCC is probably most familiar with – is shipping gently used clothing, school and medical supplies, tools, and home and office equipment in huge cargo containers to Managua. These goods are unpacked at the University of Central America, organized, and distributed to Connecticut Quest for Peace programs. Some of the goods are sold at yard sales to pay teachers' salaries and build schoolrooms.

This year, our collection will begin September 27 at NMCC, or call Gail Faithfull at 203-421-2290 (see details below).

We hope to see you at this special presentation on Oct. 18. We will begin at 11:45 in the Sanctuary.



Collection for Nicaragua: The collection for Nicaragua through CT Quest for Peace will start September 27 (today) and continue through October 18. Goods can be left by Gail Faithfull's [blue](#) Prius, or in Fellowship Hall.

What the Nicaraguans desperately need include the following:

Summer clothing -- Shoes, (especially black shoes for school uniforms), sneakers, flip flops, sandals -- Backpacks for school -- Sports equipment: soccer, baseball, basketball -- Linens: towels, sheets, pillow cases, light blankets -- Sewing materials: fabric, thread, needles, sewing machines, scissors -- Candles and candle holders -- Kitchenware: plastic items (glasses, plates, etc.), china, knives, forks, spoons, pots, pans, serving dishes, and insulated coolers -- Musical instruments -- Tools: garden, mechanical, carpentry, electrical -- Office supplies -- Medical supplies: vitamins, moisturizing lotions, peroxide, rubbing alcohol, over-the-counter medicines -- Hygiene supplies: toothbrushes, toothpaste, large bars of soap, shampoo, combs, bandaids, antiseptic cream, small mirrors -- Computers (Pentium 4 or better), flat screen monitors, computer accessories -- School supplies



Raise the Roof: Over the past 11 years NMCC has not only been a founding sponsor but also a sustaining sponsor for Raise the Roof (formerly MadisonCares), the Shoreline Connection to Habitat New Haven. During this time period 11 homes have been built in the greater New Haven area and are still occupied by the original hard working low income families that pursued the American dream of home ownership. NMCC's dollars and volunteer labor have contributed heavily to that end. This fall we will start our 12th house and you are welcome to come "pound nails" with us either on this home in New Haven or at our annual Build on the Green. In May of this year a team from NMCC helped us build exterior walls on the Guilford green as well as put up and take down the blue fence!

On behalf of Raise the Roof, I'd like to offer our sincere gratitude for your sustaining support over the last decade. This year's major fundraiser will be held at the WoodWinds in Branford on November 13th. A new twist this year, *Gala of the Stars, Dancing for A Cause*, will invite voters to donate online for their favorite couple whether attending the gala or not. We have 8 Shoreline celebrities so, watch for your chance to vote to be available soon! For more information contact Don Epperson dcepperson2001@yahoo.com or visit the website: www.raisetherooft.org/.



Columbus House - 2015: Help us keep the spirit going the 24 Saturdays we serve breakfast at Columbus House in New Haven each year. Columbus House's 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. <http://www.columbushouse.org/>

NMCC volunteers serve hot breakfast to the residents of Columbus House - the 2nd and 4th Saturday every month - that's 24 times a year - the final one each year taking place on Christmas Eve morning. What's involved? Volunteers sign up to purchase and cook eggs (18 dozen - 9 dozen each volunteer), toast (8 large loaves and spread), OJ (5 gallons plus 75-100 cups), potatoes (20 pounds) or sausages (150). We try to carpool at 6:00 am or you can meet us at Columbus by 6:30 am so help prepare and serve to 60 to 80 residents - sometimes more when it's really cold. Youth are always welcome and add extra sparkle for our residents. Minimal clean up involved. You always leave feeling that you've made a difference.

If you have the time but not the spare funds to purchase the food, the Missions Committee has provided this program with some funds to cover the purchase. If you are interested in volunteering, sign up on the bulletin board. If you have any questions, please contact [Peter Meier](#) (2nd Saturday teams) or [Roberta Hanlon](#) (4th Saturday teams).

- Fund Raisers -



Harvest Dinner: Come join us for an evening & meal to remember! Called the "*Cadillac of church dinners*" by the Shoreline Times, you won't be disappointed!

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!*

When? Saturday November 7, 2015
2 Seatings: 5:30 pm and 7:00 pm

Where? North Madison Congregational Church
(The church on 'the circle') Rte 79 and 80
1271 Durham Road, Madison CT

Cost? \$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!



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 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/5160267793.html>
- China Cabinet Vintage Glass Door \$75
<http://newhaven.craigslist.org/atq/5160322163.html>
- Modern Danish Teak China Cabinet \$250
<http://newhaven.craigslist.org/fuo/5227461131.html>
- Tea Cart Drop Leaf with Drawer \$60
<http://newhaven.craigslist.org/fuo/5238270109.html>

In addition there is a **printer** and 2 **cd players** available on the table in fellowship hall (free will donation welcomed – please mark your payment "Tag Sale").

- 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.



Yoga: Autumn... yes the days are shorter and those yellow school buses are rolling again, but fall also means pumpkin spice lattes and Monday night yoga at NMCC! Come join us for our next session of yoga with our very popular teacher, Ellen Seipold. Ellen is wonderful at adapting the class for all levels for both new and experienced yogis. Just wear comfy clothing and bring a mat. Our first session begins on Monday September 14th from 6:30-7:30pm in Fellowship Hall and will run for seven weeks until October 26th. The price remains at \$49.00 for the session or \$9.00/class for drop in. All are welcome, so bring a friend and start your week doing something wonderful for your body and spirit. Any questions contact Karen Chapman at (203) 421-4834 or krchapman@comcast.net.



Fall Worship Theme: The fall worship theme, "**One People, One God?**" begins Sunday, October 4, and continues into Advent. We will explore together many of your questions and passions that you offered last spring in the sermon topic suggestion bulletin insert, and during the summer GFWP potlucks. Topics like:

- What do we mean by "God?" Does God really have a name? Does it matter? Are there more names for God? How is the Holy referred to in other faith traditions?
- What about conflicting messages or truths like, if "God" is good, why doesn't God stop wars?
- How can my religious faith help me to be more open and compassionate, and why does the faith of some people seem to make them narrow-minded and violent?
- I really want to grow spiritually, but how do I know that I am? What do I need?
- Isn't all of reality really "one"?



Baptism Renewal: On Sunday October 4 during our worship service, we will highlight Jesus' baptism (which inaugurated his public ministry) and will invite all of us to renew our baptisms. If you have not been baptized, and would like to be, this is a wonderful opportunity to receive that sacrament.



New Member Orientation - October 11: Is it time for you to learn what it means to become a member of North Madison Congregational Church? New Member Sunday takes place this Fall on Sunday, October 25 during the worship service. This is always a special time where we welcome and commit to our new members in a simple ceremony, followed by our new member reception. To

become a member we invite you to join us on October 11 after Fellowship to learn what membership means. If you are interested in joining, please contact Pastor Jim or Roberta Hanlon.



12th Annual Roslyn Young Memorial Concert - "A Mozart

Afternoon": Sunday, October 11th at 4:00 pm at First Congregational Church on the Green in Madison. The concert, which is part of the Music at the Meetinghouse series, will feature Mozart's sublime Clarinet Quintet in A major, with soloist Matthew Goodman and the New York-based chamber ensemble, Circle of Friends. Also featured is Mozart's monumental Piano Quartet in E flat major, with past performer in the series, pianist Julia Bady, joining Circle of Friends. There will be a pre-concert talk at 3:15 pm, and a reception following the concert. Tickets are \$20 at the door, under 18, free. Roslyn Young, sister of Linda Young, grew up in Guilford and became a professional violist, performing in the Connecticut-New York area, and throughout the US and Europe.



GENEROSITY SEASON

Generosity Season: Every day is brighter, better, and more fulfilling when we share our many blessings.....time, talents, and treasures.....and are touched by acts of kindness from others. Lou Buscaglia (below) speaks to acts of Generosity in everyday life.

The followers of Jesus are blessed to be a blessing.

NMCC's **2015 Generosity Season** kicks off on Sunday, October 18th and concludes when we dedicate our 2016 pledges on Gratitude Sunday, November 15th. We invite you as individuals, as families, and as friends, to celebrate the spirit of generosity with us during the 2015 Season of Generosity. The events your Generosity Team has planned include:

- celebrating a new compilation of NMCC Generosity Stories;
- food collections for local food pantries using bags decorated by our youth;
- a new program for the youth called ARK ("Acts of Random Kindness);
- serving dinner for deserving families at NMCC;
- continued "Paying-it-Forward" with three \$50 gifts to be given away by volunteers; and
- another Generosity Potluck Dinner.

The Generosity Team is focused on reinforcing the true Spirit of Generosity in our hearts.

We welcome you to participate in NMCC's 2015 "Season of Generosity".

Your NMCC Generosity Team

Melinda Clemmons	Ann Damarjian	Miles Dunn
Jim Farrales	John Gallops	Michele Mauro
Peter Meier	Sanna Stanley	Frank Walsh

Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around. ~Leo Buscaglia



Fire in the Kitchen Concerts:

October 17 (Saturday) – The Mike and Ruthy Band: Oooh, boy. How many of you remember the Mammals? They were an amazing eye-opener, combing old-time tunes with hard-core rock sensibilities. They are the true original link between fellow Woodstock residents, The Band (yeah, that one, you know “The Weight, etc) and the nascent old-time revival. Rural Rock? Good tagline, if I do say so myself. They are the main influences, whether they know it or not, of modern bands like The Avett Brothers, The Felice brothers, and Mumford and sons. One of my favorite memories of them was when they were cranking away at the dance tent up at the Champlain Valley festival years back, and it was simply electric. This is that. It’s Jake and Elwood saying “Let’s get the band back together.” Not all the originals could join back in, but the energy and freshness are there like never before. If you’re looking for a quiet night out, maybe you ought to look elsewhere. Rock on, Mike and Ruthy... Adults \$25, kids high school and under, \$5.00

October 23, (Friday) 7:00PM – Natalie Haas and Yann Falquet: Here’s the formula: Take my favorite cellist, the crazy-great Natalie Haas, add her husband, the crazy-great Yann Falquet, and see what happens. Mix the elegance of Natalie and the humor and general craziness of Yann, and the result is huge fun. You’ll see just what you can do with a jew’s harp, that’s for sure... Natalie and Yann may be bringing a special guest along, but we’ll see how that shakes out. Just show up, will ya’? Adults \$20, kids high school and under, \$5.00 Workshop free.



Fall Cleanup - Saturday, October 24: Calling all volunteers to help with the annual Fall cleanup at NMCC on **Saturday, October 24 from 8:30 - 12:00.**

Work will begin at 8:30, but stop by at any time you can! Bring your rakes, leaf blowers, tarps and brooms. We’ll also be doing some cleanup inside the church.

Our goal is to muster enough workers to tidy the Church property, and to finish by Noon. If you have any questions, please contact Tom Lauher (203-530-7467, thomaslauher@sbcglobal.net).



Circle Nursery School Improvements: The staff at Circle Nursery School would like to thank Tom Lauher, Rene Chin, and the Property & Planning volunteers for helping with revitalization to the school hallway. The hallways look great thanks to a fresh coat of paint and some new kid-friendly art work. We have received many positive comments from our families. Thanks also to Dick Prior for the new "Circle Nursery School" sign right outside our door. We invite all church members to be sure to stop by and see how great it looks!

- 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!

Elizabeth McCann was pictured in the August 20 edition of *The Source* with her dance team from The Dance Corner.

Clarence Jones was featured in an article in *The Source* on September 10. It contains a nice biography and write-up on his new book "Triumph".

Amanda Bernier was featured in an article in the Sunday *New Haven Register* on September 20, "The last time I spoke" in which she was referred to as the ALS firefighter mom who uses state-of-the-art technology to communicate. The article refers to a video on the Amanda's Angels Facebook page and the ALS Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/AmandasAngelsALS> in which it describes how she moves her eyes to choose words that flash on the computer screen in order for her to speak." On the Facebook page we learn "Next Sunday, 10/4, my family will be participating in the Walk to Defeat ALS. If you are in the New Haven area, please join my team Amanda's Angels. I would love it if we were the biggest team there!"

Amanda was also featured on the *Today Show* as a result of her blog on breastfeeding her daughter - article posted on September 15 by NBC Today: 'I was blessed': Mom with ALS defies odds by breastfeeding her baby: <http://www.today.com/parents/i-was-blessed-mom-als-defies-odds-breastfeeding-her-baby-t44256>. Her blog has gone viral and has been viewed by over 6 million.

The following were in the "People in the News" section of *The Source* on September 24 as being named to the dean's, presidents' and/or merit lists and their respective colleges and universities for the spring 2015 semester: **Isabelle Zoekler**, second honors - Clark University; **Taylor Chin**, Roger Williams University - architecture major; and **Ryland Chin**, Champlain College - filmmaking major.

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
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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

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Property & Planning Chair, TBD	
Quiet Ministry Chair, Linda Young	203-457-0723
Generosity Team Co-Chairs, Miles Dunn and Peter Meier	203-988-1993 203-421-8377



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