

THE CIRCLE CHURCH NEWS

March 2019

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

Interim Pastor's Notes

Disquiet Corner

by Rev. Matt McCaffrey

For me, it was a Papasan chair.

You know all about the Papasan chair, I'm sure. It's a big, inviting hand-palm of a resting place. It has a cushion that is firm but not demanding. The seat begs for you to sink back and relax. It's all about repose and renewal and the hours of leisure time that are dribbling away because you just don't have the right place to sit.

When I set up a home office 25 years ago, I envisioned a corner where I'd have a little bookshelf, a lamp, and that big comfy Papasan chair. It would be my quiet space where I could read, think through the projects I was working on, and dream just a bit. (Yes, "dream" probably meant "nap.")

So, I drove down to the Pier 1 store in Milford, selected the chair and a matching Ottoman, picked out some nice black cushions in a hard cotton finish, and stuffed it all into the car. I hauled everything upstairs into my office, set up my nice quiet corner, and was happy.

There was only one problem: I never actually sat in the big Papasan chair.

It turned out that I never felt the need to go into a quiet corner and relax. My work kept me busy, but it was the kind of work that involved...reading, and thinking, and dreaming. I didn't dislike the Papasan chair at all; I just never needed to sit in it.

That didn't stop me from packing it along with the rest of my furnishings when I left that place, and setting up a new quiet corner featuring the Papasan chair – which I again ignored. Nor did I leave it behind when I moved again. Same setup, same result.

Even in our current home, the Papasan sulked moodily in its quiet corner.

All the time and the effort, the energy I put into envisioning a space that needed *that particular Papasan chair*...dragging that chair from one place to the next, setting up its little spot, and then feeling guilty every time I happened to glance at it...

Something needed to change.

About three years ago, I noticed the "quiet corner" was no more. The Papasan chair was missing. I asked my spouse Alison about it. She led me to our screen porch, where the Papasan had become part of the room furnishings. No "quiet corner," no bookcase, no special lamp. Just the Papasan chair and Ottoman. It was like she had removed a "DO NOT SIT HERE" sign.

Now that the unrealistic vision for the chair has been dispelled, I've done more reading, talking, and relaxing in that chair over the past three years than I'd done in the previous twenty.

Maybe there is an object like that in your life: something for which you had a vision, or a special purpose. You may have hoped it would improve your life in some way, that that it would bring happiness, contentment, renewal. And, it just did not. You feel a pang of regret or guilt when you look at it, or it takes up space in your life that would better be filled by something that you love.



In the season of Lent that is arriving, I'd like to invite you to bring that object to our Sanctuary, just for the season. No explanations needed, though I'll gladly listen. We'll give it a home for this season of remembering and healing. We'll offer the intention of lightening your burden as you continue your own journey in faith.

Maybe you'll find a new use for that object. Maybe you'll give it to someone else. Maybe you'll just let it go.

What we need, nothing else. That would be a great thing to discover during Lent.

Yours in Christ,



Rev. Matt

Included in this Newsletter:

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Community Outreach / Fund Raisers

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Get Involved / Stay Connected

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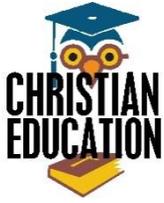
UCC Super Saturday - Find Out More About 'Social Networks' on March 24 -

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In the News and Noteworthy

- Children and Youth Ministries -



We're Hiring - Director of Christian Education and Youth Groups: North Madison Congregational Church, an Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ, seeks a motivated person with strong spiritual values and experience working with children and youth to serve 20 hours per week as Director of Christian Education and Youth Groups. Consistent with our purpose statement and congregation-centric orientation, the successful candidate will work with the Pastor and the Board of Christian Education to recruit and support volunteer teachers, collaborate in selecting curriculum, organize special children's events including Vacation Bible School, speak as part of the Sunday Children's Message rotation; co-lead a Confirmation program with the Pastor; schedule and run youth groups at Junior and Senior High levels, including outreach, personal growth, and Mission Trip work; and associated administrative activities. A Bachelor's Degree is required, preferably with a major in Education, as well as two years' minimum experience teaching and/or working with children and youth in an organized setting. A full job description is available on request. Inquiries by email to office@NorthMadisonCC.org.



Jr. Youth Group

Junior Youth Group: Our next JYG event is our in-house mission trip/work, led by Rene Chin, Karen Murphy, and Jen Boyer. It begins Friday, March 22 5:30pm and runs through our church service on Sunday, March 24. This weekend tends to be a favorite with the kids. We really take on the idea of *seeing God as we serve others* throughout all our actions during this weekend.

Much of our work will be focused around two agencies serving the needs of others: Columbus House www.columbushouse.org and Teen Challenge www.teenchallenge.org. Columbus House is an organization our church has supported for many years, located in New Haven and supporting individuals who find themselves without housing. Teen Challenge is a new organization for us and is a worldwide network of Christian faith-based corporations intended to help teenagers, and families with problems such as substance abuse or self-destructive behavior.

Please RSVP by March 7. More details regarding the trip were emailed a couple weeks ago and we will be sending out packing and other details at a later date. We're eager to hear from you all. Please direct any questions to Rene Chin, o2bachin@comcast.net, or Karen Murphy, timmurphy6050@att.net.

- Community Outreach / Fund Raisers -



Fire in the Kitchen Concert - Hat Trick, Saturday, March 9 at 7 pm: You'd have to be a first-order music geek to know about this trio. It features the head of the Berklee strings department, Dr. David Wallace. A Juilliard instructor for a bit, he left to head up Berklee because he loved the idea of all the musical worlds colliding, crashing, blending and coming out in brave new ways. There aren't too many places in the world where this happens, and we're lucky to be right down the extended road from one of the world's most important places where this kind of creativity happens. You'd also have to have your head in the sand to not know that this blending is where all music is

heading. Doc Wallace has played just about every musical genre that has a name, and most that don't. I guess it falls into the category of alt/classical. I guess. I can't really describe it, and that's why you need to hear it. Seldom does something get me this excited. Get ready. For tickets, contact Charlie Shafer at workdog@mindspring.com. Adults the usual \$25, kids high school and under, \$5.00.



Yoga: Spring is coming and so is our next NMCC Yoga session! ♡

There is no better way to begin your week- just ask Karen, Roberta, Kate, Vicki, or anybody else you know that attends our Monday or Thursday night sessions. Monday night sessions will run from 3/11 - 4/29 from 6:30-7:30, as usual. Session price is \$60.00. Thursday night sessions will run 3/14 - 5/2 with no class on Holy Thursday (4/18). Thursday nights continue to meet from 6:15-7:15 (come on all you choir members!) and the cost is \$50.00. If you sign up for both session the cost is \$105.00. Busy spring? Drop ins continue to be welcome at \$10.00/class. Questions? Contact Karen Chapman at (203) 314-9299 (evenings only please) All details are also posted on the church website.



Tag Sale: For details, visit the postings on the Tag Sale page on our website, northmadisoncc.org. Questions? Contact Roberta Hanlon robertahanlon@msn.com or 203-500-8311.

- 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.



Healing Retreat: Because the Holy Spirit is continually at work in each of us, pushing us toward wholeness, you are invited to a **Healing Retreat**, led by Rev. Tilda Norberg, on Saturday, March 2, at the Mercy Center in Madison from 9am - 4pm. Cost: \$40 per person, check payable to First Congregational Church (scholarship money can be made available); lunch is included. Attendance is limited; register soon with Sandy Dickson 203-376-7075, sandylynn dickson@gmail.com. More details can be found in your Weekly News email.



Bible Study- The Gospel According to Luke: Please join Ken Nichols on Tuesday evenings, March 5 - 26, at 7pm in NMCC library, for Bible study of the Gospel according to Luke, with the story of the young Jesus in the Temple. We will go verse by verse. This format will allow us to pause for a week or months and resume at a later date. No one session is a prerequisite for any specific session. Thus you are welcome to join in any time. Please sign up in fellowship hall.

We will use a minimum of one translation and one paraphrase. If you have a study Bible, please bring that too. You can expect to learn about the Bible AND ourselves.



Ash Wednesday – March 6 at 7:00 PM: Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the season of Lent with a reflective Ash Wednesday worship service that inspires us to consider the meaning of our lives and calls us to recommit to our own personal spiritual growth during the days leading up to Holy Week and Easter.



UCC Super Saturday: The UCC is hosting Super Saturday on March 16 from 8:00 am – 3:45 pm at Minnechaug Regional High School in Wilbraham, MA. If you're interested, contact the church office at office@northmadisoncc.org and we'll email you more information and a listing of the workshops. The registration deadline is March 2. You can register online at www.macucc.org/SS-Mar2019.



Find out more about 'social networks' on March 24: With our expanded social media presence comes questions.

- Does using Twitter make me a “tweeter” or a “twit”?
- Is “friending” someone on Facebook a long-term commitment?
- Why should I “like” or “follow” or “subscribe” to anything?
- Are people on social media expected to be rude, and is there anything I can (or should) do about it?

There *are* ways to use Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and Pinterest for social good, family and church connection, and learning more about the world. Even better, these 21st-century networks can help your church reach into parts of our local community that we might not otherwise ever see.

Join Rev Matt for a hands-on workshop after Sunday worship on March 24, 2019. We'll spend an hour looking at our current @NoMadUCC social media presence across those platforms, and he will do his best to answer your questions. If you want help establishing an account on any of these platforms, bring your device (laptop, phone, or tablet) and he'll help you get started.

For “meantime” questions email Rev Matt: revmatt@northmadisoncc.org



Help us start our video channel on YouTube. We need 100 subscribers to have an easily-found and -remembered address for YouTube. No big commitment: just go to this temporary address and click “Subscribe”: <http://bit.ly/NoMadVideo>



Pastoral Search Committee: The Pastoral Search Committee is excited to report that we have submitted a draft of our Local Church Profile to our regional minister, Mary Nelson. We will be meeting on March 10 to review the profile before we meet with Rev. Nelson on March 20 to hear her feedback. From there we will develop our final profile that will be submitted to the UCC for consideration by potential candidates. We are very grateful to the congregation for the thoughtful feedback you have given us to date, and we anticipate gathering more feedback on specific topics as we begin to develop interview questions for our candidates.

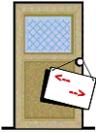


Offering envelopes are available for weekly giving if desired. Please contact the church office at office@northmadisoncc.org, 203-421-3241 ask and we will provide

them to you. Please contact Michele Mauro at treasurer@northmadisoncc.org if you have any questions.



Church Cancellation: Notifications are available on NBC, CBS (WFSB) and ABC (both channel 8 and Mytv9). We will also post cancellations on the home page of our website, northmadisoncc.org, and on the church answering machine (pending our ability to get into the church to access the voicemail system) shortly after 8:00 am.



Main Sanctuary Doors: Please note, as we do each year, in order to keep the church clean and warm, we will be keeping the sanctuary doors locked during the cold winter months. Please use the Fellowship Hall or Narthex entrances. Thanks!

- 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!

Office, Board and Committee Contacts:

Interim Minister: Rev. Matt McCaffrey	203-421-3241
Office: Jackie Fix, Office Manager; Susan O'Connor, Clerk	203-421-3241
Minister of Music: Linda Juliani	860-399-0210
Choir Director: Bill Clemmons	203-421-3484
Christian Education: Rene Chin	203-421-3498
Junior Youth Group: Jen Boyer	203-421-2918
Rene Chin	203-421-3498
Karen Murphy	203-481-7597
with support from Jen Davies	203-318-0829
Senior Youth Group: Jen Davies	203-318-0829
Circle Nursery School: Kathy Niejadlik	203-421-0997

OFFICERS

Executive Committee Chair, Tom Lauher	203-530-7467
Executive Committee Vice Chairs, Beth Berestecky and Bob Blundon	203-421-3210 203-996-0671
Board of Deacons Members*:	See Below
Clerk, Eileen McCann	203-623-9155
Assistant Clerk, Calvin Price	203-245-8566
Treasurers, Michele Mauro and Keith Luckenbach	860-663-8009 203-421-5054
Assistant Treasurer, John Gallops	860-460-8573
Financial Secretary - Disbursements, Open	
Financial Secretary - Receipts, Susan O'Connor	203-457-1559
Asst. Financial Secretary - Disbursements - Open	
Asst. Financial Secretary - Receipts - Open	

* Carol Anne Bachhuber 203-747-4840; Kristin Polisky 203-421-1175; Karen Miller 203-915-2989; Scott Conover 203-453-1733; Keith Luckenbach 203-421-5054; Ivy Alexander 203-668-7177; Kate Summerlin 203-453-0700; Orlene Gallops 860-339-5844; Sandy Dickson 203-421-1178; Susan Kenney 203-530-1153; Melissa Blundon 203-421-4465

BOARDS/COMMITTEES

Board of Christian Ed Chair, Rene Chin	203-421-3498
Board of Deacons Co-Chair, Carol Anne Bachhuber Co-Chair, Kate Summerlin	203-747-4840 203-988-1993
Board of Finance Co-Chairs, Beth Berestecky and Bob Blundon	203-421-3210 203-996-0671
Communications Chair, Roberta Hanlon	203-421-4891
Hospitality Chair, Christine Farrales	203-421-9323
Human Resources Chair, Holly Francis	203-245-7331
Ministry Resource Team, TBD	
Music Chair, Heather Crawford	203-421-5670
Pastoral Relations, Chair, TBD	
Property & Planning Chair, Tom Lauher	203-530-7467
Quiet Ministry Chair, Linda Young	203-457-0723
Generosity Team, Jim Farrales	203-421-9323



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 →

