

THE CIRCLE CHURCH NEWS

June 2019

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

Interim Pastor's Notes

Hey, did you happen to notice it's June?

by Rev Matt McCaffrey

All around us I'm seeing signals that, as a society, we've misplaced the ability to cope.

Doctors wonder aloud, and sometimes in print, about the training that led them to prioritize the routines of medicine – taking vital signs, assessing overall physical condition, questioning the patient – over allowing the ill human being in front of them to get a healing night's sleep.

Parents find themselves gamely, and blearily, keeping up with their children's activities...while the children find themselves overwhelmed and wondering what a "free moment" really looks like.

These weeks of spring that call us out of heated rooms and closed-in spaces also beckon us to a cascade of closing ceremonies and commencements and recitals, not to mention the occasional wedding. Something about nice weather seems to prompt us to pull our busyness just a bit closer around our shoulders. We begin to resent still another beautiful afternoon spent listening to someone we don't know offering a discourse on something we care only vaguely about, and to resent the obligation that roped us into the arrangement.

In the background, there's the fact that as a society we are so wired in to each other that we find ourselves in an absurd position: a metaphorical sneeze in Seattle leads to instant outrage and cries for redress, all of which will die down by next week.

Meantime, we try to absorb national events and find that it's an all-or-nothing proposition. It's either "all news, all the time" or we have to unplug completely. Neither stance is truly helpful, though the unplugging part does sound nice.

Our societal resilience, in short, has grown very brittle.

"So, Rev Matt, is this the part where we should expect you to say something pious and holy and Bible-y?" I'd guess you know my response to that question.

Sure, I could tell you to go to your quiet place and pray until your attitude changes. Or, I could mention our deceased ancestors who led saintly lives, and whom you would do well to emulate. I could even talk about Jesus going off by himself in the middle of his frantic tour of Palestine, with his followers running interference so he could get a few moment's peace.

Maybe there's something to be learned there. But in this beautiful month of June, with a church family surrounding you that truly loves you; with a Creator who truly wants the best for you; with a lighter calendar coming up (really!); I'd rather let those thoughts come to you when you are ready for them.

Let our fellowship be a place of respite this summer. Let our work in this season be about nurturing each other's tired and fragile spirits. Let our spirits be open to the Spirit who lightens our burdens, and to the Shepherd who leads us beside still waters.

May you find rest and renewal in this season.

Yours in Christ,

Rev Matt

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- Children and Youth Ministries -

Announcing NMCC's New Minister of Faith Formation and Youth Ministry: On Friday, May 31 the following announcement was sent out via email to the congregation from Rev. Matt and Rene Chin, Co-Chair of Christian Education! On Sunday, June 2, Sue covenanted with NMCC during worship.

The Christian Education Board and I are very pleased to announce that Ms. **Sue Timony-Hall** is called by North Madison Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, and the Holy Spirit to the position of **Minister of Faith Formation and Youth Ministry**, starting May 30, 2019.

Sue brings to us a wealth of experience working with children and youth in and around Madison. She served the First Congregational Church of Madison as Director/Youth Minister for Children and Youth Ministries from 2010 to 2018. Sue's collaborative leadership in outreach and justice ministries in that position mirrors our own congregation's passion and interests for our youth. She brings expertise in teacher training, retreat design and preparation, inter-church programming, curriculum selection and design, faith formation for youth, and many other related areas.

In short: Sue brings many tools to this job!

She also brings a vision and passion to her work with young people. We are so excited about the new possibilities that await, not only our children, but all of us who hold close the covenant promises we make to God on their behalf.

Sue's position with us will be part-time. She is responsible to the Board of Christian Education and reports to the Pastor. Most of her job responsibilities with us will be at the church, where a newly-rearranged C.E. office is waiting! This is a 10 month per year position.

A word of explanation concerning Sue's position title is in order: As a direct result of the congregation's decision to upgrade the resources and expectations for this position at your December meeting, we were able in turn to attract interest from highly qualified candidates. Sue is a Commissioned Minister in our New Haven East Consociation, and an Authorized Minister in our United Church of Christ. Her work with us will be in partnership with New Haven East, and we expect it will be considered a "call" by them. (Although Sue holds standing as an Authorized Minister, she is not ordained.)

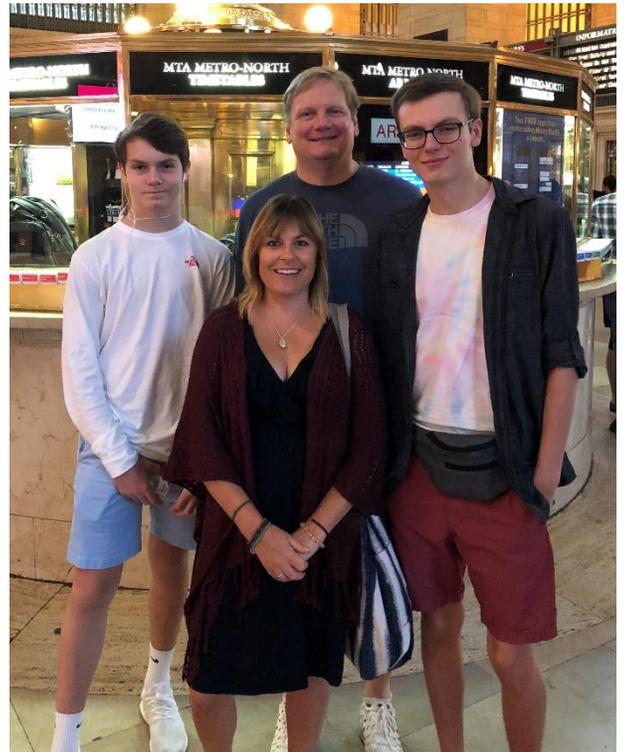
We are excited Sue is joining us in worship for the first time on **Sunday, June 2**. During that service we will covenant with her for the ministry with children and youth that is about to unfold in our midst. We encourage you to take part in that service of promise as well, and to welcome Sue into our church family.

Blessings and peace,

The Rev. Matthew McCaffrey
INTERIM PASTOR

Ms. Rene Chin
CO-CHAIR, BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

A Note from Sue Timony-Hall: I'd like to extend heartfelt thanks to everyone who has made me feel so welcome here at NMCC over the past few days - especially during Sunday's worship and fellowship time. I also appreciate all the work that Holly Francis, Rev. Matt, Rene Chin, and the interview panel did in order to make my welcome possible! I'd like to invite anyone who would like into conversation with me about NMCC, your families, ministry ideas for children, teens, and ways we can come together to promote intergenerational relationships, or really anything at all that you might like to share as I become acquainted with my new church home. I am so eager to meet each of you. My cell is 203-843-6206, if you would like to say hello and/or set a time to get together for a chat. Once we get to the Fall, I will be holding regularly scheduled office hours that I will share with everyone.



As a very welcoming email went out from Rev. Matt and Rene Chin recently describing my past ministry experience, I will just add to their very complimentary introduction that I have lived in Madison with my husband, Jim, and our two boys for almost 15 years. Currently, Nick is in 10th grade at Daniel Hand HS (for a few more days as summer quickly approaches), and Christopher is a rising junior at Fordham University Lincoln Center. He is working this summer in NYC on a research fellowship at Cornell Weil Medical School, so we have a few fun events planned in NYC this summer. We also have a dog and two cats. So looking forward to beginning our shared ministries together!

With love,
Sue Timony-Hall



Mission Trip: The upcoming Senior Youth Group Mission trip to Blue Knob, PA from June 23-28 is a wonderfully moving experience for our teens, but is costly and creates a financial burden for some of our families. We are asking you to prayerfully consider helping out. Baked goods were sold 6/2/19 after worship and general donations will graciously be accepted through June 9, to help defray the costs of the trip. Thank you all for your generosity so far! Please contact Jen Davies with any questions, colindavies@sbcglobal.net. Thank you for your consideration of this worthy

cause.

The following youth: Mac Abbott, Eli Davies, Jonathan Christiano, Mathew Feldman, Nichole Reynolds, and Chaperones: Jen Davies, and Ryan Murphy will be attending this year's Mission Trip. Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers while they do this important work.



With Appreciation and Gratitude for Supporting our Children & Teens!

With each baptism that occurs at NMCC, we all recommit to supporting our children and teen's faith journey. Well, the following individuals took that promise and certainly followed through on it! We thanked them for ALL they have done. Read below to see just how busy they have been.

Please forgive our humanness if we have neglected to add you to this list.

Delivering Heartfelt Children's Messages: Julie Abbott, Keith Luckenbach, Heather Ignatuk, Sanna Stanley, Charlie Shafer, Peter Meier, Carol Luckenbach, Ann and Bill Clemmons, Heather Crawford, JYG, Ken Nichols, Cat Kane, Rene Chin, Melinda Clemmons, and Melissa McIlveen.

Teaching Children's Church to our amazing kids: Jeff Ignatuk, Missy Belcourt, Karen Murphy, Rene Chin, Jill Aboulian, Janice Wolf, and Cat Kane.

Organizing and/or Leading our Intergenerational Choir: Linda Juliani, Ann and Bill Clemmons.

Assisting with Children's Church and/or helping with our Christmas Pageant: Larry Kilburn, Charlie and Stacey Shafer, Holly Francis, Emily Alletzhauser, Jordyn Belcourt, and Sydney Aboulian.

Chaperoning Junior Youth Group: Jen Boyer, Jen Davies, Rene Chin, Karen Murphy, Adam Lehman, and Lance Abbott.

Supporting our Senior Youth Group: Jen Davies, Sanna Stanley, Natasha Friend and Frank Walsh.



We're Hiring - Nursery/Toddler Room Coordinator: Our own Elizabeth McCann, a college student, has been hired to be a consistant face until we hire a permanent person to work in our nursery/toddler room year-round. Over the summer while she's home from college.

We are still accepting applications for a year-roun paid position of Nursery/Toddler Room Coordinator at NMCC to start in the fall. We need someone in our nursery/toddler room during Sunday worship who has two years teaching or supervising children and is at least 18 years old. The hours are 9:45 until the end of worship and the children are picked up by their parents. We are offering a flat fee of \$30 per Sunday. Since we would prefer not to deprive anyone of attending Sunday worship, we are looking for someone you might know and could refer to us. The full job description is available from the church office! Thanks for your help. Please have those interested send their information to the church office, office@northmadisoncc.org.

- Community Outreach / Fund Raisers -



Madison Antiques Show: On the Green in Madison on Saturday, July 20 from 9 AM to 4 PM, Rain or Shine. This is one of our top fundraisers for the church!

Coming soon - Mark your calendar - We need you!!

There will be a **SIGNUP SHEET** on the easel in Fellowship Hall. Please fill in a spot where you can help!

Baked Goods - we cannot stress enough the need for pies, breads, bars, cookies. The more you bake, the more we can sell and it is all profit. Pies are always a wonderful money-maker for us and sellout quickly. You can always leave baked goods in the freezer in the church kitchen.

Food Tent - will need ice and coffee.

Marking the Green/ Setting up Fence on Friday morning - takes about 2 hours and we could really use your help.

Set-up and Take-down is a huge task - please sign up to lend a hand.

Parking, Gate and Bakery Booth Attendants - the day of the show

If you are planning to be away during the show, please look over our "needs list" and see what you can do ahead of time.

If you have any questions about certain jobs, please see John Gallops (jgallops@aol.com/860-460-8573), or call the office at 203-421-3241 to sign you up. Thanks so much to those of you who will give your time to help us make this show a huge success.



Tag Sale Booth at NMCC Antique Show on July 20: We are once again planning to have a booth at the NMCC Antiques Show on "On the Green." We're looking for your antiques - we did quite well last year and have a good idea of what vintage/antique items we'd like to focus on this year (clean and ready to sell):

- Furniture - small tables and wooden boxes sold well last year

- Records - 33 1/3 from the 50's, 60's and 70's
- Framed art
- Mirrors
- Housewares (unique and a limited amount)

Other ideas welcome!

Contact Roberta Hanlon robertahanlon@msn.com or 203-500-8311 or Holly Francis hollydayfrancis@aol.com or 203-623-1058 with questions.



New Ministry Resource Team Update. We're pleased to report on a successful Quest for Peace collection in May. Our breakfasts will continue at Columbus House and **new this year**, we are launching a new program to help our friends at Columbus House. We also hope to finalize additional proposals to renew 2018 ministries including Continuum of Care, Raise the Roof, St. Martin de Porres Academy, Shoreline Food Pantry and Kitchen and Youth Continuum. Any questions, contact any of the team members: Roberta Hanlon, Sandy Dickson, Cal Price, Lyn Boling or Rev. Matt.

- **Connecticut Quest for Peace.** We had a great collection at NMCC this Spring plus help from Act II Thrift Shop, thanks to Roberta's connection as a volunteer. This may be our biggest collection in years! Many thanks to all you who donated so much - your generosity to the people of Paraguay and Appalachia will help so many. It's wonderful to see our extras go to folks who need these as basics. Thanks to Peter Meier and Karen Miller for helping pack up all the donations.

This month we will send our Outreach Ministry donation of \$1500 to Quest for Peace for Nicaragua to provide school lunches to children for whom this is often their only meal each day. A reminder we plan hold a second collection in September. Thanks so much for your support - any questions, contact Gail Faithfull galileomacgail@gmail.com, Connecticut Quest for Peace Champion.

- **Boxers and Briefs for Columbus House.** Who doesn't appreciate new underwear? Let's be honest - do you ever think about folks at Columbus House and their underwear situation, let alone talk about it? We recently learned that while Columbus House community rarely receives donations for undies! Let's make a difference and be the boxers and brief angels!!! Boxers for men and briefs for women, all sizes, simple. Look for the collection box under the Giving Tree. Any questions - contact Roberta Hanlon robertahanlon@msn.com, Columbus House Champion.



Breakfast at Columbus House: The next two dates are June 22 (led by Susan Christiano) and July 13 (led by Julie Abbott and Laura Prohaska). We meet at Columbus House at 6:30 am (or carpool from Madison or Guilford at 6:00 am) to prepare breakfast for 60 to 80 people. To sign up, visit the bulletin board in the back hall where you sign up to purchase and prepare eggs, toast, juice, potatoes or sausages. *New!* If you would like to serve breakfast, but find the practice of purchasing the food you sign up to bring difficult for you to manage, please contact Roberta Hanlon roberthanlon@msn.com, 203-623-9834 or Peter Meier peterm190@yahoo.com, 203-421-8377 to get reimbursed.



Yoga: Our Monday session will run through June 24 and Thursday night's session will run through June 27. Drop ins are always welcome at \$10 per class. Bring a friend! Most of our students are from the local North Madison community. We will hold a summer session in July and August in the Community Room (where there's AC) so why not give Yoga at NMCC try this summer? Any questions or for session updates check the NMCC web page or contact Karen Chapman, Yoga Champion, at krchapman@comcast.net or (203) 314-9299 evenings.



Grocery Cards: Please help support our church and community! Visit our team members Sundays after worship in fellowship hall and buy grocery cards. And thank you all for your purchases to date! For more information about this program, please see Calvin Price.

- 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.



Annual Church Picnic - Join us on Pentecost Sunday, June 9 from 11:30 am - 2 pm immediately following service. During worship, we will be witness to the confirmation of our young people. We will also be recognizing our Junior Deacons and announcing the recipient of the Senior High Education Award. The annual picnic will take place on the church grounds near the community room. RSVP if you're planning to attend and if you'd like to contribute a salad, crock-pot dish, side, or dessert. A sign-up board is located in Fellowship Hall or you can email: office@northmadisoncc.org by 12:30 on Friday.



Father's Day Worship: On June 16, Father's Day, we invite you to "dress up" for the great outdoors! As Rev Matt prepares to head for the great United Church of Christ gathering known as General Synod, we'll gather around the campfire and consider what makes us one body in Christ. We'll hear some good gathering songs from our choir, and sing a couple as well. Dress casually, and see you then!



Men's Group: Come join the fun and meet other Christian men helping others and our community. Neighbors, old friends and other guys are always welcome at these events. Some include setting up and taking down fence with our Fence Team, helping the Habitat for Humanity build, setting up and helping with our church picnic, and outings like a *Hartford Yard Goats Baseball Game, Date TBD* (more info to follow soon). Join us for fun, fellowship, etc. Contact Peter Haff to sign up or with questions at 203-415-2773.



Church Profile: The Local Church Profile developed by the Pastoral Search Committee is now on file in the office. If you wish to read it, you may make an appointment to do so during church office hours, Monday through Friday from 8:30 AM to 12:30 PM. The document must be read in the office and may not be removed or copied. Thank you.



Televised Sunday Worship - Videographers Needed: Did you know that our Sunday worship service is video-recorded in its entirety and shown on Local Access in Madison Channel 18 on Wednesday at 10am and again on Thursday at 7:00 pm? This allows our members to experience worship when they are not able to join us on Sunday morning.

We are looking for 2 to 3 individuals – teens and adults of any age are welcome – to record Sunday worship from the balcony. You don't need to be technical – you just need to connect 3 cables to the camera and put a DVD in and hit "record." Having an eye for good "theater" helps with close ups and other creative videotaping. Once worship ends a copy of the DVD needs to be brought to the media center at the town campus, so teens are encouraged to ensure their parents are willing to help them drop off the DVD. That's it. Training is available as long as you need it.

We set up a schedule ahead of time and you will get a reminder the week before. Teens – this counts toward "service" requirements. The more videographers we have, the less often you will be asked to serve but we're hoping for around once per month. If you are interested, please contact Tim Murphy, timmurphy6050@att.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 and we'll be sure to include them!

- In the Community -



Raise the Roof: The Build at Bishop's: Please join Raise the Roof: The Shoreline Habitat Connection, and the children's nonprofit Roots 4 Relief for a day of building for Habitat for Humanity on Saturday, June 8 from 9:00-3:00 pm at the Red Barn at Bishop's Orchard.

Volunteer opportunities: Set up: 7:30-9:00 am; build walls: 9:00am-3:00 pm - no experience necessary and hammers are supplied. Volunteers will build the exterior walls for use in a future Raise the Roof sponsored Habitat house in New Haven, and Roots 4 Relief will host "kid friendly" crafts & activities that will be used in Habitat homes, such as birdhouses, quilt patches, builders' aprons, and window boxes. Stop by our Message Walls to write your wishes and blessings or add your artwork.

Register now! Set-up and build volunteers need to register at <http://raisetherooft.org> for one of four 90-minute shifts. Must be at least 16 years old to volunteer and if under 18, require waiver co-signed by parent.

NMCC is a charter member of Raise the Roof: The Shoreline Habitat Connection (formerly MadisonCares), an NMCC Outreach Ministry. The Red Barn at Bishop's Orchards is located at 1351 Boston Post Road, Guilford, CT.



In the Footsteps of Jesus Trip to Israel: Experience this spiritual pilgrimage to walk in fellowship with your friends and other followers of Christ. Your understanding of the Bible and your commitment to follow Jesus will be challenged, inspired and strengthened as you bow at the manger in Bethlehem, worship on the Sea of Gallilee, and pray in the Garden of Gethsemane. Join Dr. Jay Terbush and Rev. Ray Medeiros who have designed this pilgrimage to include the sites that they think are the most meaningful in the Holy Land.

Interested, contact Roberta Hanlon robertahanlon@msn.com (203-500-8311). Roberta and Holly Francis made a similar trip 5 years ago and Roberta plans to return again in 2020, February 3rd through 14th. A trip to the Holy Land is life changing.

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; * Kate Summerlin 203-453-0700; Kristin Polisky 203-421-1175; Karen Miller 203-915-2989; Scott Conover 203-453-1733; Keith Luckenbach 203-421-5054; 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 →

