



THE CIRCLE CHURCH NEWS

July/August 2019

North Madison Congregational Church

United Church of Christ

1271 Durham Road

Madison, CT 06443

Interim Pastor's Notes

Meanwhile

by Rev. Matt McCaffrey

I am back from "UCC Camp" – my playful term for the 32nd General Synod of the United Church of Christ, which began on Alison's and my wedding anniversary and ended on the 62nd birthday of our wider church family.

"How did it go?" you ask. Happy to tell you!

Well, first, there is the long-anticipated, yet joyful news that our historic Connecticut Conference will become part of a new, wider Conference that also embraces the historic Rhode Island and Massachusetts bodies. It's been called "Together, As One" (or "TA1") during this long period of discussion and formation. It will (I hope!) receive a more creative and evocative name when the new structure emerges fully. We expect that to happen in November, but the General Synod blessing was a necessary and warmly-welcomed part of the process. [Read more about the GS action here.](#)

Then, there's the not-so-joyful. As an Open and Affirming congregation, we have a covenant to offer extravagant welcome and radical hospitality to anyone. That hospitality has been put to the test in recent years by a coalition called the Faithful and Welcoming Congregations of the UCC. The FWC seeks to provide an alternative voice for congregations that are not accepting of LGBTQ+ persons. It has sponsored an exhibit booth at General Synod to interpret its views, and it professes that its mission is to enable congregations to stay in the denomination though they dissent on this issue. (Some would say, "Until they evolve..." but I don't want to be too snarky about this.)

A resolution brought forward to ban "groups we don't agree with" from being allowed to have space at General Synod proved to be very divisive. A group of LGBTQ+ delegates supported it, but was dismayed that the ONA Coalition and many delegates opposed it. The supporters demanded safe space and saw the FWC group as promoting hateful and violent speech. The opponents saw a group of UCC churches being banned for their sincerely-held beliefs, and was guided by the principle that all church groups need to be at the discussion table, even if some do not agree with their positions or even find them abhorrent.

As you can imagine, that was a recipe for a long, painful, and ultimately unsatisfying discernment process. It ended in a draw, with the resolution tabled and many feeling their voices had not been heard. [Read more here.](#)

Perhaps this was a watershed moment: The denomination is waking up to the fact that it is no longer a brash, newly reformed grouping of four historic streams of Reformation Christianity. At age 62, it is now facing its situation: it has gained much wisdom, many commitments, and a certain amount of stiffness in the joints. The underlying sense of the body (and isn't that an apt phrase!) is that we can choose to change, move, and grow; or we can allow ourselves to age in place until it's time to turn out the lights.

Meanwhile: our North Madison fellowship continues to find its own, multi-layered, radically extravagant voice. Let's wish our wider fellowship a happy 62nd, and help it in its mission to become the church equivalent of a new generation's voice for Christ's justice and work in the world.

God's Spirit has called us. We can do nothing less.

Yours in Christ,



Rev. Matt

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**News
from
Sue**

My oldest son, Christopher, is an undergrad at Fordham University in New York City. When Chris began to explore various college choices during his junior year of high school we were very impressed by Fordham's Jesuit commitment to educating the whole person "cura personalis" and creating men and women dedicated to serving others "homines pro aliis." At around the same time that Chris was applying to colleges, I attended a workshop that explored ways to pray. There I learned about St. Ignatius who wrote about the importance of finding God in all things by inviting us to see our daily lives with new eyes. Ignatian spirituality is synonymous to Jesuit spirituality (as I understand it) and is based on 16th century St. Ignatius of Loyola's experiences of God in his life. In addition to recognizing God's presence in the every day, Ignatius called for us to rapidly respond to God's presence when we perceive it.

In addition to responding to God's presence, the Jesuits believe that the desire to serve others is in our very core, and that our response to the call to serve is essential. I've been thinking a bit about all of this for a few reasons. One reason is because it is summer and Chris is spending his working in a

lab at Cornell Medical School. This is the first summer that he is away from home and working full time. Although he has only been a college student for two years, I marvel at how much he has grown and matured emotionally, spiritually and intellectually from visit to visit. Another reason is that I was, along with other NMCC community members, blessed to be able to see some of our youth and their leaders off on their mission experience to Altoona, PA last Sunday. I am looking forward to hearing their reflections upon their return, and to helping them share their experiences more fully with our church family in the fall. I am also looking forward to the quieter days of July and August - days spent with family and friends, at BBQs and at the beach, in my garden and in the woods. I hope that each of you will also get to enjoy whatever summer means to you. I found the article below about two quick ways that we can check in with our families and close friends at the end of each day, and want to pass it on to you.

Please feel free to call me any time to chat, share ideas for the coming programming year, or for any reason at all. 203-843-626. With love, Sue

Two Simple Ways to Practice Ignatian Spirituality with Family

By Ginny Kubitz Moyer

Ignatian spirituality encourages us to notice what is right in front of us. That's one of the things I love about it. When St. Ignatius wrote about finding God in all things, he was essentially giving us an invitation to see daily life with new eyes. We don't have to invent complicated, fancy new ways to inject God into our daily routines; Ignatian spirituality helps us recognize how God is already there, all the time.

And this makes it a perfect spirituality for families. If you feel (as I often do) that life is already so full that you can't imagine adding one more thing to the mix, don't worry; Ignatian spirituality fits beautifully into even the busiest routine. Here are two quick, Ignatian-inspired practices to encourage you and your family members to recognize God's constant, dynamic presence.

1. Three Things

If I were to ask, "Name three things today that made you happy," what would you say? Either question is great to discuss as a family. Whether you do so over the dinner table or in the car on the way home from school, nearly everyone can think of three things that made the day better. It's always revealing to add in the adjective "little," as it can encourage us to think beyond the more obvious things (friends, health, home) and notice the smaller things we don't often register in the moment. The friend who shared his chips at recess, the fresh smell that comes after the rain, the adorable dog we saw going out for a walk - it's easy to forget these things unless we have a reason to remember. These questions give us a reason. They invite us to pause, review our experiences, and recognize that even in the most challenging days, God's fingerprints are everywhere we look.

2. What I Love About You

Every night, before falling asleep, my husband and I share one thing we love about each other. We've been doing it almost as long as we've been married, and it's a terrific way to end the day on a note of recognition. It's often inspired by the experiences of the day: "I love how you are so great at fixing my computer," or, "I love how supportive you are when I'm stressed." This exercise isn't just for spouses; each night, my husband and I also tell our children one thing that we love about them. It's very grounding to wrap the day up by recognizing the good. Even if there has been

family tension or frustration in the hours before bed, verbalizing something you love about a person is a simple but meaningful way to reconnect. It's one more simple but effective way to recognize the people we share our lives with and to recognize God's goodness in them.

Happy Summer!



SYG Mission Trip Blog: Check out what our Senior Youth Group did on their Mission Trip to Blue Knob, PA June 23 - 28 on our website, www.northmadisoncc.org. There's a direct link under "Latest News" on our home page that will bring you directly to the blog.



We're Hiring - Nursery/Toddler Room Coordinator: For this year-round paid position at NMCC during Sunday worship, candidate must have two years of experience teaching or supervising children and be at least 18 years old. The hours are 9:45 am until the end of worship and the children are picked up by their parents. The full job description is available from the church office! If interested contact 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!!*

Please fill in where you can help on the **SIGNUP SHEET** in Fellowship Hall!

- **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.



Online Tag Sale: While our focus through July is on collecting antiques, we will continue posting items on Craigslist and list them on our online tag sale web page web site: <http://northmadisoncc.org/calendar-events/tag-sale/>. Contact Roberta Hanlon robertahanlon@msn.com or 203-500-8311 or Holly Francis hollydayfrancis@aol.com or 203-623-1058 with questions.



Ministry Resource Team Update: We're pleased to report the MRT approved three Outreach Ministries in June – congratulations to Outreach Ministry Champions Karen Miller, Lyn Boling and Jim Farrales:

- **St. Martin de Porres Academy** - Karen Miller's focus this Fall will be to encourage new volunteers to join the 10 NMCC volunteers currently at SMPA supporting their music program, scholastic tutoring, leading a boy scout troop and van transportation. This month NMCC will also present an Outreach Ministry check to provide financial support to [Saint Martin de Porres Academy](#), an independent faith-based, Nativity Miguel Network middle school located in New Haven. The goal is to end the cycle of poverty through education, one child at a time.
- **Youth Continuum** - Lyn Boling is kicking off her plan with Bingo and pizza night on July 23 at Youth Continuum (see related article). Many thanks for your the gift cards collected via the Giving Tree last month – we will use those for Bingo prizes. Next month Lyn will also present our Outreach Ministry check. [Youth Continuum](#) protects and promotes the well-being of at-risk youth and provides them with the skills necessary to take advantage of opportunities for a healthy and productive future.
- **Continuum of Care** - Jim Farrales is working with Heather Crawford to launch a regularly scheduled Knitting Group and with Sanna Stanley to set up an Art and Poetry Workshop Series for clients under their care. Jim's plan is to also provide a financial donation that will support many client services needs from clothing and setting up a new apartment to case management help in applying for benefits. [Continuum of Care, Inc.](#) enables people who are challenged with mental illness, intellectual disability, Autism, and/or addiction to rebuild and thrive in the community.

We have 2 additional champions creating proposals to renew and embellish 2018 ministries including Raise the Roof and Shoreline Food Pantry and Kitchen. Any questions, contact any of the team members: Roberta Hanlon, Sandy Dickson, Cal Price, Lyn Boling or Rev. Matt.



NMCC Sponsors Bingo Night at Youth Continuum, Tuesday, July 23: Please join us for a fun Bingo Night with at-risk youth. In addition to playing Bingo, we will be sharing pizza with the clients and staff. Please bring a dessert or beverage if possible. We will carpool together and meet at the Exit 61 in Madison. Departure will be at 6:00 pm, for the group home in New Haven. We will be back between 8:00 and 8:30 pm. Please RSVP Lyn Boling at lboling123@comcast.net if you are interested.



Boxers and Briefs for Columbus House: Launched in June, we will collect through August. The Columbus House community rarely receives donations for undies and Lyndia Haff, who works with clients at Columbus House noted: "...and they're not bashful about asking for them! Boxers for men and briefs for women, all sizes, simple. Look for the collection basket under the Giving Tree. Any questions - contact Roberta Hanlon robertahanlon@msn.com, Columbus House Champion.



Breakfast at Columbus House: Please sign up to help serve breakfast at Columbus House over the summer on 7/13, 7/27, 8/10, and 8/24. 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. Visit the bulletin board in the back hall where you can sign up to purchase and prepare eggs, toast, juice, potatoes or sausages. *New!* If you would like to serve breakfast, but find the cost of purchasing difficult, please contact Roberta Hanlon, roberthanlon@msn.com, 203-623-9834 or Peter Meier peterm190@yahoo.com, 203-421-8377 to get reimbursed.



Yoga: There will be no classes July 1 - 5. Our summer yoga sessions run from 7/8/19 - 8/22/19 on Mondays at 6:30pm and Thursdays at 6:15pm. The cost is \$55 per session, \$105 for both. Drop ins are always welcome at \$10 per class. Bring a friend! Most of our students are from the local North Madison community. 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.

- 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.



UCC Approves a New Conference: On Monday, June 24, delegates to the United Church of Christ's national meeting in Milwaukee overwhelmingly approved a request by its three conferences in Connecticut, Massachusetts and Rhode Island to dissolve and join together to form a new conference, "Together, As One."

NMCC's Cal Price and Sandy Dickson are both members of the new tri-state "Together, As One" board. Cal, serving as Treasurer of the combined conference, shared his enthusiasm for this historic announcement, "We are already beginning to see the benefits of sharing talents across the 3 individual conferences of Connecticut, Massachusetts and Rhode Island. As we pool our skills and invest and share in technology, outreach ministries development such as racial justice, as well as with preaching resources and skills, we will be able to reduce the overall amount we each contribute today in running the 3 conferences, when we become one conference on January 1, 2012. This is the way of the future that will enable us to unify and grow UCC membership in Southern New England."

You can find the full information on the MA UCC Website, <https://www.macucc.org>, in an article entitled [Synod Approves Replacing Three Southern New England Conferences With One](#).



🎵🎵🎵 **HUGE and loving thanks to our choir!!** 🎵🎵🎵 On every single Sunday since last September, your NMCC choir has provided exquisite music for our services of worship, representing lots of rehearsal time every week on Thursdays and on Sunday morning before church. What a beautiful and meaningful gift they give to us all...Huge and loving thanks to each and every chorister for all the time, energy and enthusiasm which they give so very generously!!!

We also give those same huge and loving thanks to our most magnificent maestro Bill Clemmons who volunteers so much time to lead our choir – AND to the amazing and most fabulous Ann Clemmons who in addition to playing her violin so many times throughout the year, helps in more ways than you could possibly imagine...

During the summer, individuals and small groups will be providing us with equally exquisite music every week – and we will look forward to welcoming the full choir back on September 8!

When you see choir members, please make sure to thank them yourself!! 😊



Summer Worship Hours: During July and August, Sunday worship will be begin at 9:30am, followed by Fellowship Hour. This will give you more time to enjoy those warm summer days!



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: 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 creative videotaping. More details are available in the May newsletter. 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!

Danielle Farrales was pictured on the front page of *The Source*, June 6, 2019, on the front steps of the First Congregational Church while taking prom photos.

- In the Community -



Sacred Music Scholarship Program, on behalf of the Board of Directors of the Connecticut Conference:

The CT Conference has a Sacred Music Scholarship program, designed to aid a person of any age intending to further his/her skills in some aspect of sacred music at institutions of higher education. To read more about this resource, including eligibility requirements,

visit: <https://www.ctucc.org/scholarshipsandgrants>

Please use the [CARR Sacred Music Scholarship Application Form](#) for immediate consideration. Interested persons should complete this application and return it as soon as possible. The deadline for the application is July 29, 2019. The completed application should be returned via email or hard copy to: Jill Ford, Program Associate, CT Conference UCC, 125 Sherman St., Hartford, CT 06105
jillf@ctucc.org 860-761-7112

The Scholarship Committee will be meeting in early August to make decisions about The CARR Sacred Music Scholarship program. Announcement of awards will be made by the end of August.

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
Minister of Faith Formation & Youth Ministry: Sue Timony-Hall	203-245-1531
Circle Nursery School: Kathy Niejadlik	203-421-0997

OFFICERS

Executive Committee Chair, Jim Farrales	203-421-9323
Executive Committee Vice Chair, Tom Lauher	203-530-7467
Board of Deacons Members*:	See Below
Clerk, Eileen McCann	203-623-9155
Assistant Clerk, OPEN	
Treasurers, Michele Mauro	860-663-8009
and Keith Luckenbach	203-421-5054
Assistant Treasurer, John Gallops	860-460-8573
Financial Secretary/Disbursements, Open	
Asst. Financial Secretary/Disbursements, Open	
Financial Secretary/Receipts, Susan O'Connor	203-457-1559
Asst. Financial Secretary/Receipts - Calvin Price	203-245-8566

* Carol Anne Bachhuber 203-747-4840; * Kate Summerlin 203-453-0700; Susan Christiano, 203-314-8853; Peter Haff, 203-415-2773; Melissa Blundon, 203-421-4465; Orlene Gallops 860-339-5844; Dawn Barber, 203-457-1868; Sandy Dickson 203-421-1178; Susan Kenney 203-530-1153

BOARDS/COMMITTEES

Board of Christian Ed Chair, Janice Wolf	203-421-6776
Board of Deacons Co-Chair, Carol Anne Bachhuber	203-747-4840
Co-Chair, Kate Summerlin	203-988-1993
Board of Finance, TBD	
Communications Chair, Roberta Hanlon	203-421-4891
Hospitality Chair, Martha Nichols	860-346-2000
Human Resources Chair, Holly Francis	203-245-7331
Ministry Resource Team, TBD	
Music Chair, TBD	
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 →

