

THE CIRCLE CHURCH NEWS

July/August 2020

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

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The Murphy Family

- Pastor's Note -

A blessed July to you! Here in the US, it is our nation's birthday month. July 4th is the day we commemorate the moment 13 colonies, after over a year of protesting; rioting; destruction of property; wasting a lot of good tea; and taking up violent, armed resistance against their government; declared independence from England for their white land-holding male citizens, launching the formation of what has become the United States.

In a June 7 session of the Continental Congress at the Pennsylvania State House, Richard Henry Lee of Virginia offered the now famous words: "Resolved: That these United Colonies are, and of right ought to be, free and independent States, that they are absolved from all allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political connection between them and the State of Great Britain is, and ought to be, totally dissolved." Freedom!

"Freedom" is a popular American word. Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel, one of my favorite theologians, teachers, and justice activists, writes in his book, *The Insecurity of Freedom*, about the important distinction and balance between "freedom from" and "freedom to." In a maturing spiritual life, we strive to find balance between dependence and independence. As we live in community (and nations) together, it turns out that the fulfillment of independence we so cherish is dependent on the commitment and covenantal behavior of our neighbors – a mutually honoring interdependence.

Being dependent and independent are deeply and inextricably intertwined in our interdependent lives. It seems that in recent months and years we have begun to awaken anew to just how fragile that interdependence can be, how reliant it is upon the agreement of others to acknowledge, respect, and protect each participant's autonomous, sacred, personhood. In this next year of our lives together, I pray that we as a nation deepen our appreciation for our collective interdependence. None of us is truly free until all of us are truly free. Happy Fourth. May God bless the continued birthing of this nation.

Love, blessings, and hope,

Pastor Heather

- Music Notes from Linda -

Hear More from our NMCC Choir! Traditionally, as the month of June closes, our choir sings for the last time until September and they "bless" the congregation with a choral rendition of THE OLD IRISH BLESSING. But this year is DIFFERENT!!

Though the choir hasn't sung together since early March, you have been hearing them most Sundays during our virtual worship services (thanks to our choir CD's) and will continue to hear them through the summer months too!

IN ADDITION – we are beginning a new program in which several choir folks who have recorded themselves alone will be "combined" into an online "choir" using the technological talents of Scott Chassé and Jack DiMatteo. The process is time-consuming, but so AMAZING!!!

I find/arrange the music and email it to choir participants. Then, I record the accompaniment and the separate parts for each of the vocal sections. All that gets sent to Scott's "Cloud" where the singers can access it. Then, each person must rehearse multiple times with the recordings until ready to record their own voice while also listening to the accompaniment. They send their recordings back to Scott's "Cloud" and Scott and Jack work diligently (for hours!) to layer and balance them to produce one perfect song.

What would take the choir only a matter of minutes to learn and sing in "normal" time becomes an ENORMOUS project in this "virtual" world! BUT – we are all so EXCITED to be singing together in whatever way we are able – and are most grateful for the technology (and for Scott and Jack!) to do it!!

AND – you can be sure that no matter where they sing – in church or from their own homes – every choir member will sing with the same LOVING SPIRIT as they do every single week . . . BLESSING us always.

Invitation from The Music Team! NMCC's music ministry has always been a mainstay of our worship, and in this time of virtual worship we have been working hard to include meaningful music as part of the service. Linda's wonderful explanation of how the music for virtual worship is being produced indicates the complexity of this process. Because it is so time-consuming, the Music Team has approved the hiring of a knowledgeable college student, Jack DiMatteo, to work with Scott

Chase on the more technical aspects of our music production. Jack comes to us with more than four years of experience in video/audio editing. Since this is not a budgeted item, we would like to invite our members and friends to sponsor the music for a service in the same way that folks have previously sponsored flowers or a coffee hour. We anticipate a cost of about \$45 per service, but any gift will be welcome! You can even designate your music support in honor or memory of a person or event, just as you would do if you provided flowers (although we would prefer that you not identify a specific Sunday since we don't have a way to control sign-ups). Checks made out to NMCC can be sent to the church office, with "service music" on the memo line. Online you can make a donation and write "service music" in the donation box. Thank you in advance for your support of our virtual music ministry!

- Children and Youth Ministries -

Happy Summer, Friends!

Although I will be away from formal ministry on behalf of NMCC from June 28-August 30, I will still be available by cell for hellos, for sharing summer pics (send me some of you doing something fun or meaningful - or both), and for support/conversation if you'd like. Please know that you are all in my heart and that I am praying for you and our community.

See you for our welcome back gathering day on Sunday, Sept. 13!



Be safe, be well, and know you are loved - by God and your church family!

With love,
Sue
cell 203.843.6206

Community Outreach and Fundraisers -



Ministry Resource Team: "... now our service begins!" Navigating ways in which to serve our Outreach Ministries when the services we provide are "on hold" for volunteers. An update and new ideas of serving:



Columbus House. While Columbus House remains closed, staff support of clients continues at New Haven hotels and they have helped 127 clients, including 25 veterans, find their own apartments. For those 170 clients temporarily housed in New Haven hotels since March 15, Columbus House staff continues to ensure clients receive all the services they provided previously, 24-hours, on-site at the hotels. The Respite program, in partnership with Yale New Haven Hospital continues at the Columbus House building for clients recovering from hospitalization. Columbus House staff is currently working on the re-entry plan for both staff and clients when it is safe to do so, though many things will be different, including the how volunteers will be involved in preparing and serving food onsite in the near term.

In the meantime, what can we do to make a difference if we can't directly engage with clients onsite? The hotel has a screen where videos are shown, clients are mostly 2 to a room and clients have phones, etc. While I work out the details with Sheree, Volunteer Coordinator, let's put our creativity to work. Our volunteers mean a lot to the Columbus House clients, so we'd like to offer upbeat messages by sending:

- Letters, cards
- Artwork - something they can hang in the room
- Video - especially those of us who have volunteered at Columbus House - keep them short so you can send them easily to me. Sheree also mentioned Veteran-specific messages are especially welcome.

If you have something to share, let me know: robertahanlon@msn.com or 203-500-8311 and I'll get it our Columbus House volunteer coordinator. Please do not include any personal contact information, though a note with your first name is welcome.

Financial donations are always welcome. You can either donate on the NMCC web site or directly online with [Columbus House](http://www.columbushouse.org) - www.columbushouse.org in either case, we ask you indicate the donation is for "NMCC - Food Services" (on the Columbus House web site) or "Columbus House - Food Services" (on the NMCC web site) so we can track our donations and support the meals they provide.

Great News! Columbus House has found a new CEO - [Margaret Moore](#). She is well known in New Haven and Connecticut and formerly served on the Columbus House Board.

Thank you for your support! Columbus House Champion



Connecticut Quest for Peace: Our next drive is planned to launch in September for Nicaragua, Paraguay and Appalachia. While we finalize the details, what can you do? Please help by gathering clothing for warm and cold weather, cooking pots, plastic dishes, medical supplies and equipment, musical instruments, sports equipment and school supplies. Thank you for your support! Karen Miller dksamiller@msn.com,

Champion for CT Quest for Peace.



Continuum of Care: We continue to collect masks for Continuum of Care - see article below for details. Many thanks for the 307 masks you've made to date!!! Jim Farrales farnavos@comcast.net, Continuum of Care Champion



Loaves & Fishes Ministry: Please make donations directly to the Madison, Clinton or Killingworth food pantries while our church building is closed. Thank you. John Gallops, Loaves & Fishes Ministry Champion.



Raise the Roof/Habitat New Haven. Frank and Cal recently learned the RTR builds have resumed on Button Street in New Haven. Before deciding when if/when it is safe for NMCC volunteers to join in, Frank will volunteer to work at the site in mid-July to assess the environment, safety measures in place at the sites and how the volunteers are following the guidelines. At that point they will be able to share with us what Frank has learned and, if it's a go, they pick a work date for NMCC to join in as a team with other congregations. RTR/Habitat New Haven Champions, Frank Walsh and Cal Price

Outreach Ministries - Contact Roberta Hanlon if you would like to learn more our other Outreach Ministries whose Champions are working with other organization to identify how we can support them this summer including: Continuum of Care, St. Martin de Porres Academy and Youth Continuum.

- Get Involved / Stay Connected -



There are many ways to be involved in NMCC's vibrant community – serving in an Outreach Ministry, mentoring and teaching our children, joining in musicmaking or worship planning, helping out around the church building, sharing the gifts God has given you, learning new skills from others, enjoying the fellowship of working on projects together. Visit our [Get Involved](#) page for opportunities at northmadisoncc.org.



Summer Hours July & August: Worship is at 10:00 a.m. this Sunday. We will be starting worship at 9:30 a.m. during July and August, starting on July 5 and continuing through the end of August.

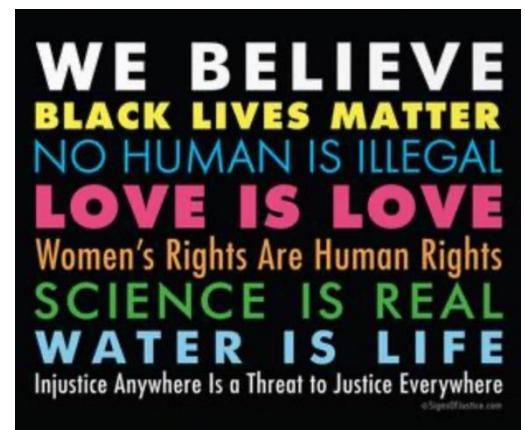


Book Discussion Group: The next NMCC book discussion will be held on July 14 at 7:30 PM (note the half-hour time change). The book was written by three Nobel-prize winners, the Dalai Lama, Tenzin Gyatso, and Desmond Tutu. The name is "THE BOOK OF JOY". You are invited to read and join us or just listen in as it is discussed. Please let Peter Meier know if you are interested in participating (peterm190@yahoo.com) and he will send you meeting details.

Yard signs are in! Contact the church office to arrange a time for pickup, office@northmadisoncc.org, 203-421-3241 (leave a message if no one is there).

**If you are available to be present at church at another time for folks to come and pick up signs, please let the office know!
Thank you!**

(The signs were purchased from a POC maker and are currently limited to three per person.)





WARNING - Email Spamming: Just a warning to let you know someone is sending emails as Heather Arcovitch, but they are not coming from her email address. If something looks strange, you can check the email address by hovering over the name. Heather's email is harcovitch@gmail.com. So if it's not from that address, it's not her.

Also, we've had notifications that texts are going out as well, signed by Rev. Dr. Heather Arcovitch, pastor. Check to see if it's from her cell number, which is 203-687-9172. If not, it's not from her.



COVID Mask Making Ministry: The need is great! The demand for home-made masks continues, especially since it is likely that the wearing of masks will be required or recommended for many venues, for the foreseeable future. To date, we have delivered 307 face masks to Continuum of Care. Thank you for considering involvement with our COVID Mask-making Ministry team! More information can be found by clicking [here](#).



Thank you for your Support in these Strange Times: Especially now, it's so important to support our church's financial health. Please keep your giving up to date, and purchase grocery cards which support our church, at no extra cost to you. [Click here to give online](#), or mail your check to the church office. [Click Here](#) to see more ways to give and other options to send your contribution.



Weekly Church Emails: Are you receiving our weekly email? We're now using Constant Contact in addition to PowerChurch to send out our all church emails.

Emails with links or phrases that your email service deems suspicious can be rejected by the email server or sent to spam. Since everyone has different email providers, there's not one easy fix for everyone.

Below are some suggestions that may fix the problem:

- Add office@northmadisoncc.org to your email contact list.
- Go to your spam folder, and mark the email "Not Spam"
- Click on the email in spam and move it to your inbox
- Change the folder the email is going into. For example, Gmail has different inboxes. Some have reported that our emails are going into their *Promotions* inbox instead of your *Focused* inbox. You can change this setting.

You can search in Google for how do this for your email service, i.e. "How do I add a contact to my AOL email?" or "How do I mark an email as *not spam* in Hotmail?"

Or you can contact Jackie in the church office, office@northmadisoncc.org or 203-421-3241, and she'll try to troubleshoot with you. Please note, she's working remotely from home so if you call the office, make sure to leave a message on the voice mail and she will call you back. Or just email her and let her know a good time to reach you and leave your phone number. Her office hours are Mon, Wed, Thurs, and Friday from 8:30 - 12:30.

Hope this helps and we can get you all connected with all that's going on at NMCC!

Ongoing Ways to Stay Connected

TUESDAY

Tuesdays in the Garden: Posted Tuesdays on Facebook and also available on [YouTube](#) or our [Church Website](#).

WEDNESDAY

Evening Vespers Prayer: Join us Wednesdays at 9:00 p.m. on Facebook. If you don't have Facebook you can view them later on our [Church Website](#).

THURSDAY

Bible Study: Join Pastor Heather Thursdays at 10:00 a.m. Lectionary Zoom Link can be found in the Friday all church email.

SUNDAY

Virtual Worship: Live streamed at 10:00 a.m. on Sundays on Zoom and Facebook. The Zoom link can be found in the Friday all church email. The service is also available afterwards on Facebook, [YouTube](#) and our [Church Website](#). Virtual fellowship time held after the service. If you have problems logging in please contact: Sandy Dickson 203-376-7075 -- Orlene Gallops 860-339-5844 - Carol Luckenbach 203-530-9903



Have you "liked" us on Facebook?: Please share the love and a glowing review there~tell our neighbors what you love about being part of NMCC and what God is doing here. You never know who may be looking for a welcoming church home, or whom you may inspire!

- 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 board 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.

The Murphy family was pictured at graduation on the front page of *The Source* on June 25.

Office, Board and Committee Contacts:

Senior Minister: Rev. Dr. Heather Arcovitch	203-421-3241
Office: Jackie Fix, Office Manager; Rhonda Spencer, Bookkeeper	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
Property Manager: Tom Lauher	203-530-7467
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, Kate Davis	203-421-5848
Treasurer, Ryan McMillian	203-895-2611
Assistant Treasurer, John Gallops	860-460-8573
Financial Secretary Receipts/Disbursements, Susan O'Connor	203-457-1559
Asst. Financial Secretary, Receipts/Disbursements, Calvin Price	203-245-8566

* Kate Summerlin 203-453-0700; * Sandy Dickson 203-421-1178; 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; Susan Kenney 203-530-1153

BOARDS/COMMITTEES/TEAMS

Board of Christian Ed Chair, Janice Wolf	203-809-0877
Board of Deacons Co-Chair, Kate Summerlin	203-988-1993
Co-Chair, Sandy Dickson	203-421-1178
Board of Finance, John Gallops	860-460-8573
Circle Nursery School, Laura Prohaska	203-467-2558
Communications Team Leader, Roberta Hanlon	203-500-8311
Cong. Life Ministry Team Co-Chair, Ken Nichols	860-346-2000
Co-Chair, Jim Farrales	203-421-9323
Generosity Team, Jim Farrales	203-421-9323
Hospitality Chair, Christine Farrales	203-421-9323
Human Resources Chair, Jim Farrales	203-421-9323
Ministry Resource Team Leader, Roberta Hanlon	203-500-8311
Music Chair, TBD	
Pastoral Relations Contact, Carol Luckenbach	203-530-9903
Property & Planning Chair, Tom Lauher	203-530-7467
Quiet Ministry Chair, Linda Young	203-457-0723

Make a Gift on our Website! It's easy! Have a special occasion for which you'd like to thank God? Want an easy way to make your weekly offering? Like to establish a monthly automatic donation as a sustaining member? Visit www.NorthMadisonCC.org, click "Online Giving" at the top of the page, and just follow the instructions! Thank you for your love and support of NMCC and our ministries. Or, just scan here with your phone →

