

THE CIRCLE CHURCH NEWS

July & August 2021

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

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Congratulations to all of our graduates and their families! We love you and are so proud of you!

Huge congrats to Mac Abbott, this year's Barbara Munro Memorial Scholarship recipient! And thank you to Ken Munro and his family for honoring Barbara through supporting our youth.

Much gratitude for Janice Wolf, our Anne Fowler Schmidt Award recipient. Thank you for sharing God's love with our kids and us all!

Please mark your calendars for Welcome Sunday on Sept. 12 when we will kick off a new programming year, bless our students and teachers, and celebrate being together again in person!

Sue will be available by cell this summer if a need arises (or you'd just like to say hello), and Heather is always available.

Please take lots of pictures this summer to share in September.



Sexuality Education

OWL Classes for Fall, 2021: The NMCC Board of Christian Education will again offer the OWL (Our Whole Lives) responsible sexuality-education classes to youth entering grades 7-9, beginning in the fall and running over the winter months.

In today's media driven world, many young adults are being educated by glorified and graphic images of sexuality. The objective of the OWL program is to equip youth with accurate age-appropriate information to help them clarify their values, build interpersonal skills, and understand the spiritual, emotional, and social aspects of sexuality.

Over 30 NMCC youth have completed the grades 7-9 program in years past, and are the best references we could provide for the value and effectiveness of the OWL program.

More information is available at the websites of the UCC and the Unitarian Universalist Association who jointly created the OWL program. All facilitators (teachers) are trained by OWL personnel from one of these institutions.

This year, NMCC is again working together with First Church, Madison.

Participation is optional and independent of other NMCC youth activities.....OWL classes are offered at separate times from Church School and other Youth-Group activities.

To help plan for this fall, we ask that interested parents respond by e-mail to peterm190@yahoo.com or Sue Timony-Hall ce@northmadisoncc.org (or both). We can guide you through the process and answer any questions about the OWL program.

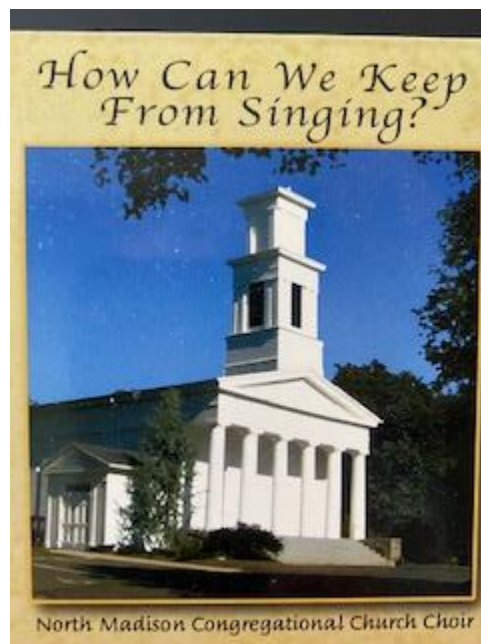
- Music -



Musical Notes: Remember this?

Since you may be listening to music in other ways these days, your CD's may be gathering dust somewhere – but this is the cover of our very first choir CD which we produced way back in 2006... 15 years ago! The title refers to one of our favorite anthems (#18 on the CD) but also refers to the way that our choir FEELS about music.

My life flows on in endless song – above earth's lamentation
– Since LOVE is lord of heaven and earth
How can I keep from singing?"



Your choir folks sing because they can't help it !! Their music bubbles forth from the depths of their spirit and ministers to all who hear it...

All who tune in on Sunday mornings to our virtual services will continue to hear them every Sunday! Their voices will be heard in July as one of the 16 choirs chosen to sing at General Synod! And their joy is even shared on the Madison Green through one of the birdhouses displayed on the southeast corner!

Our own Sanna Stanley conceived the idea of sharing thoughts/feelings about surviving the COVID year by decorating birdhouses to share with the community. Lots of people responded! If you haven't visited them, drive over and take a look – they are just WONDERFUL.

Take a close look at the picture of the one from the choir ...

The top says HOW CAN WE KEEP FROM SINGING? and when you open the door, you can see pictures of our virtual choir singing their hearts out 😊🎵🎵.

THANK YOU to ALL our dedicated musicians for all the ways they continue to fill up our lives with song!!!



- Community Outreach and Fundraisers -



Ministry Resource Team: In June, our first 2021 outdoor Community Yoga class, successfully broadcast simultaneously via Zoom, so we will continue offer when the weather cooperates. Our classes generated a modest income bringing our 2021 YTD income to \$1,172.



Community Yoga - Outdoor and Zoom: New Series: Our next Zoom Yoga series on Mondays, runs from June 28 - July 26 (no class on July 5). Our Thursday series is offered from July 1 to July 29 - both **outdoors at NMCC and broadcast live on Zoom**, starting at 6:00 p.m. Pricing:

- **Mondays** (Zoom only) series costs \$28 for 4 classes (none on July 5). Monday-only students may add any Thursday class (outdoors at NMCC or by Zoom) to give you a total of 5 classes. Cost is \$35 with one Thursday class.
- **Thursdays** (outdoors by the Community Room + Zoom) series costs \$35 for 5 classes; in case of rain, the outdoor class will be held on Zoom, and you will be notified the day of class.
- **Bonus Thursday option** - in lieu of a "walk-in" option, sign up for 3 outdoor or Zoom classes on Thursdays for \$25.

Did you know NMCC has hosted Community Yoga since 2013? NMCC is designed to offer a local, affordable, healthy way to share with our community, connecting care for oneself and the earth in a holistic and spiritual manner. Our current teacher, Vicki Earl, began with us and became certified as a Yoga instructor last summer - check out her [story](#) on our Community Yoga web page. Try us out this summer and find out why we've had a loyal following!

Checks can be mailed to NMCC, 1271 Durham Road, Madison, CT 06443 - please clearly mark the check and envelope with "Yoga". Electronic options are available as well.

If you, your friends or family would like to join, we'd love to have them - advising them previous experience is recommended. Not sure? Try one of our classes for free before committing. Contact Roberta Hanlon robertahanlon@msn.com or 203-500-8311 to register.

Ministry Resource Team: If you are interested in starting a new Outreach Ministry, the Ministry Resource Team can help you with ideas, best practices, funding and resources to help you design and engage our NMCC community in supporting your ministry. Contact Roberta Hanlon robertahanlon@msn.com. if you would like to learn more.



Goodness Grows Garden Walk: The sweet bloom is still on the rose as we savor lingering moments of the NMCC Goodness Grows garden tour and plant sale. What a day it was! From the 7:00 a.m. plant sale set up to the last guest in the late afternoon gardens, we sowed a kind of joy that comes from a community that believes in goodness and reaps love.



With lots of hard work, team play, and divine inspiration we pulled off a day to remember. When all was said and done, we were blessed to open up 7 beautiful gardens to over 250 people and sell over 500 plants, dug from NMCC member gardens. As one guest summed up her experience: *"... a spectacular show of God's nature at its finest. Each garden had its unique offering of exquisite beauty and fun whimsy for eyes to behold. A comprehensive and descriptive guidebook, the mixed variety of gardens, and the warm hospitality at each stop....all added to a soul-refreshing, wondrous day."*

This first-ever NMCC garden tour and plant sale extended our mission of 'caring for all creation,' to the world beyond our doors and enabled us to share God's bounty for all to see and take in. Another note of thanks said, *"what a gift you all gave us and the community which will keep on giving through the work you do."*



A heartfelt thanks to all who saw this vision through with dirt under their fingernails, determination to face the challenges, endless meetings, days of doubt, and lastly a nail-biting finale only to be greeted by a glorious day of bountiful smiles, beautiful blooms, and happy hearts.

- Get Involved / Stay Connected -



There are many ways to be involved in NMCC's vibrant community – serving in a missional outreach ministry, mentoring and teaching our children, joining in musicmaking or worship planning, helping out around the church building, singing in the choir, 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 Worship Hours: During July and August, Sunday worship will be begin at 9:30am, followed by Fellowship. This will give you more time to enjoy those warm summer days!



Update on Pastor Heather: As most of us are aware, Pastor Heather scheduled vacation time for June 15-29. She and Barb planned to get their new Madison home unpacked and enjoy some spring time off. During this time away, Heather also scheduled what she expected to be a fairly routine laparoscopic procedure on Tuesday the 15th. As is always a possibility with medical procedures, unexpected complications resulted in additional emergency surgery and a stay in the ICU. Thank goodness, as of Saturday, the 26th, Heather is recuperating at home again with Barb. She is very grateful to our church leaders and ministry staff for their love and care for her and Barb, especially Sue Timony-Hall, Linda Juliani, and Gail Faithful for ensuring that essentials around church are covered, and Linda Juliani, Sue Christiano, Kate Summerlin, Sue Timony-Hall, and Barb for making virtual worship happen so seamlessly and beautifully. While this all happened on pre-planned vacation time, it was wonderful to have loving colleagues jump forward to support Barb, ensure worship came together, and offer themselves to cover any unforeseen pastoral emergencies that might arise.

Heather's prognosis is concern-free; she is just healing from the surgeries now. Barb & Heather welcome all the NMCC prayer we may send. They send all their love and ask that emails and texts be kept to a minimum so Heather can rest into full healing as efficiently and thoroughly as possible. Cards are always welcome and wonderful and may be mailed to 671 Green Hill Rd, 06443.

NMCC member, Rev. Gail Faithful, will continue to provide coverage for pastoral emergencies during Heather's convalescence, which will now extend to July 4. Bible study and vespers will not be held during this time, but will resume upon Heather's return.

Gail may be reached by phone at 203-689-5840 or 203-415-3308 or by email at galileomacgail@gmail.com.

Please keep Heather and Barb, as both our pastor and members, in your prayers.



Condolences to the Wood Family: Hello friends. Sad news to share. Sam Wood passed away in Colorado unexpectedly. Sam and his sister Meg were both members of our church, where they attended church school and were confirmed. Sam's mom Trudy still lives locally in Guilford. See [his obituary here](#) for services to honor Sam's life both virtually and in person. Please keep he and his family in your prayers as they work through the pain of loss. A local service took place on June 26th in Madison at the First Congregational Church on the Green.



Matching Pledge: A generous anonymous donor is matching all pledges up to \$2500 to bring us home to our 2021 Stewardship Campaign goal. Increase your pledge by June 30th, and it qualifies for this matching offer to double your gift in service to the church! Thank you!

Thank you to all who have stepped up to help NMCC! Over the last week more commitments and donations have come in and we are now ONLY \$800 from our GOAL of \$40,000 in commitments.



NMCC's Treasurer: After serving as NMCC's Treasurer since July 2020, Ryan McMillian has to unfortunately step-down given other work and family obligations. Ryan has committed to remain in the role through June 2021. On behalf of the congregation, the Board of Finance thanks Ryan for his service and looks forward to his family's continued commitment and involvement with NMCC.

For the continued financial planning of our church, filling the role of Treasurer is vital. Has God gifted you in the area of finance or accounting? Are you looking for a new way to serve NMCC? As an officer of the church, the Treasurer must be a member in good standing and have an understanding of generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP). Your time and talents will be needed at least 2 hours per week to review timesheets, sign paychecks and checks, review A/R for coding and proper documentation, and read and address the Treasurer's email. An additional 2-4 hours per month would be invested in reviewing bank reconciliation reports and the general ledger (including income and expenses) and preparing monthly reports and meetings with the Board of Finance and the Executive Committee. At year end, the Treasurer prepares annual financial reports and works with the Board of Finance in developing annual budgets with each of the Teams/Committees and Boards, and with the Audit Committee in carrying out an annual audit. If you are interested or would like to learn more, please contact John Gallops, Chair of the Board of finance, jgallops@aol.com.



Book Discussion Group: The Book Discussion Group is reading [Apeirogon](#) by Colum McCann, but we do not plan to meet again until fall and a date will be announced in August. A brief summary of the book follows.

[Apeirogon](#) by Colum McCann: C.M writes with an amazing abundance of humanity as he describes the age-old story of inhumanity to man. It is the story of a Palestinian man and an Israeli man who have both lost daughters to the violent conflict between the nations. They recognize the loss that connects them and employ storytelling in an attempt to use their grief as a weapon of peace. "McCann finds the emotional accuracy, the sensitivity and the beauty to tell the heartbreaking reality of life in Israel-Palestine, while allowing readers a glimmer of necessary hope.



Church Office Update: Our professional ministry team members have been serving great dedication throughout the pandemic. Much of this has been accomplished virtually. Effective June 1st, staff members return again to the church building to keep hybrid office hours there.

To keep our staff and one another as safe as possible, please

- Make an appointment to ensure only one visitor at a time.
- Wear a mask.
- Keep a 6 to 10-foot distance.
- When entering the office, please knock and pause for the staff member to put on their mask before you enter.

Ministry Staff in-person office hours:

Rhonda (Accounting)

9-12:00 Monday & Wednesday
9-12:30 Tuesday
9-11:30 Friday

Jackie (Administration)

9-12:30 Monday & Thursday in office
(Remote 9-12:30 Wednesday & Friday)

Heather (Ministry)

Wednesday – Sunday in office, visiting, and hybrid
9:30-5:30 Thursdays in office

Linda (Music Ministry) at her discretion

Tom (Facility Management) at his discretion

Sue (Faith Formation) by contract, does not work in summer months.

Ongoing Ways to Stay Connected

Please let us know if you need help connecting with virtual ministries – we can walk you through logging onto Zoom, Facebook, etc. – we want you to be able to participate!

Please contact the office and we'll have a deacon call you to help.

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. The week's passages and Zoom link to join is in the Friday all church email each week. Absolutely no previous scripture knowledge is required.

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 posted afterwards on Facebook, [YouTube](#) and our [Church Website](#). Virtual fellowship time is held immediately following the service for those who wish to participate – see and talk with your church friends near and far (in tiny but amusing little boxes on your screen!).

If you have problems logging into worship, please contact: Sandy Dickson 203-376-7075 -- Orlene Gallops 860-339-5844 - Carol Luckenbach 203-530-9903 for tech support.



Recipe from Susan Christiano: *Discussed during Sunday Fellowship on Father's Day*

Butter Lettuce Salad with Cherries and Goat Cheese

For the salad

1/4 cup sliced almonds
1 small fennel bulb
4 radishes
1 head butter lettuce

8 small slices prosciutto
4 oz goat cheese crumbled
24 cherries pitted and halved
1 T finely chopped chives

Toast almonds in frying pan over medium low heat or in oven at 225 until golden in color. Cool. Using a sharp knife, or mandolin slice the fennel bulb and radishes very thin. Set all aside.

In 4 individual bowls or I put mine in a large bowl or pan for a party, make a bed of lettuce, add the fennel and radish slices, add 2 slices per bowl of the prosciutto, then the goat cheese and cherries. Drizzle with dressing and top with almonds and chives.

Dressing

1 t honey mustard
1 small shallot minced
1 small garlic clove
1/2 t kosher salt

1/4 t fresh black pepper
2 T red wine vinegar
1 t finely chopped fresh tarragon
5T olive oil

Combine mustard, shallot, garlic, salt and pepper. Stir in vinegar and tarragon. Add oil in a thin stream whisking continuously to emulsify. ENJOY.

- 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.

Kate Summerlin was named Person of the Week in BOTH Madison and Guilford on Zip06.com on June 8 [Kate Summerlin: Growing Flowers and Cultivating Spirituality | Zip06.com](#) and Madison's *The Source* and *Guilford Courier* on June 9 - perfect timing to generate buzz and additional ticket sales for our Goodness Grow Garden Walks to Nurture Your Soul and Plant Sale on June 12.



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, Carol Luckenbach	203-530-9903
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! Or TEXT "Donation" to **833-948-2188**. Thank you for your love and support of NMCC and our ministries. Or, just scan here with your phone



Please donate to support our Virtual Choir! We estimate that each anthem costs us approximately \$75 to produce. Donations in any amount are welcome. If you would like to honor, remember, or celebrate someone, we will prepare a worship slide naming this in worship. Thank you!