

CHURCH LIFE

SEPTEMBER 2011



**Middlebury Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
The Green
1242 Whittemore Rd.
Middlebury CT 06762
203-758-2671
www.middleburyucc.org**

Ken's Korner

Welcome Back

Slowly we will return to the full program year of our church community and the rhythm of life will continue. Over the summer we have said our final goodbyes to some longtime members. These occasions are mixed with sadness and a Christian joy in knowing that they have arrived at their final destination with their Lord.

We have also greeted inquiring families who have expressed a desire in joining our church family. At this point we have three families with children and one individual who have worshipped with us and would like to be received. The Board of Deacons will review their requests and a date will be set in the near future.

I would like to thank Valerie Beard for her prompt and cheerful greetings to new families and her tour guide duties as she showed each our Sunday school facilities. Val can always use your help in the church school so do not be afraid to seek her out.

The Sonshine Services are and continue to be a unique opportunity to worship on a Sunday morning. From six to fifteen members and friends have gathered to meditate, hear scripture and share in our garden chapel. These services will continue into the fall, weather and interest permitting.

This will be our final time to worship with Wayne who will retire after Christmas services this year. Wayne is an talented and devoted church musician. He has been a friend to me and to many in the church and cannot be replaced. We will have to open our minds to new possibilities in music as the Music Committee and Amelia prepare for the church's musical future.

So, I welcome you back and hope to see you in church real soon.

Ken

The Sunday School Scoop

Welcome Back!

I hope everyone had a fun and relaxing summer. September brings the official start to the Sunday school year! Please join us on September 11th for Homecoming Sunday. During church, there will be many fun games, activities, and food for the children on the Green!

The first day of Sunday school classes will be on Sunday, September 18th. This year, our curriculum, The Workshop Rotation Model, continues with the theme of "The Messiah". Our year begins with the lesson of "David". Please see the monthly rotation schedule to find out which room your child will be in each week.







I am borrowing Sal Sena's approach to signing up to be a liturgist - signing up to teach is now online through a Doodle Calendar! If you would like to be on the list, please let me know and I can send you the link and more information. In addition, there will be sign-ups on Homecoming Sunday for those interested in teaching. If you have any questions, please see me or another member of the CE committee. There are many different lessons this year, and one is sure to be appealing to you!

I am asking all parents to fill out a registration form for each of their children prior to the first day of Sunday School classes on September 18th. Registration forms are available in the church office, and they will also be available on the CE table on Homecoming Sunday. Keeping all of this information current will ensure the safety of all of our children during Sunday school classes, as well as keep our church records up-to-date.

I look forward to seeing everyone in September!

Valerie

Sunday School Grade Schedule September 2011

	<u>Sept. 4</u>	<u>Sept. 11</u>	<u>Sept. 18</u>	<u>Sept. 25</u>
Noah's Ark 	All in Church For Family Sunday	Children and Youth Gather on the Green 	6 th /7 th	4 th /5 th
Storytelling Tent 			K/1 st	2 nd /3 rd
Bibleland Theatre 			2 nd /3 rd	K/1 st
Mary & Martha's Kitchen 			 Food and activities for all after worship	4 th /5 th



Childhood is a journey, not a race.

The Preschool on the Green still has some openings for the 2011-2012 school year. The four year old program meets on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays and the three year old program meets on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The morning classes run from 9:00 am - 11:30 am and the afternoon classes run from 12:30 pm - 3:00 pm. The school offers programs that emphasize hands-on experiences, encouraging children to discover, learn and create in a safe environment. For further information or to arrange an observational visit, please call the school at 203-577-2275.

Youth News!

This year, we will have 2 youth groups. Junior youth group will include grades 6th – 8th. Senior youth group will include grades 9th – 12th.

On homecoming Sunday, September 11th, we will have sign-ups for the youth groups. If you have been in youth group or would like to be, please sign up. You can also bring a friend to join youth group as you don't have to be a member of our church to be a participant in our group. As always, we welcome any adults 18 or older in the church to volunteer to help out with the youth group activities and events throughout the year.

So far, the plan for this year is to hold our annual retreat to Silver Lake towards the end of January and volunteer with a mission project every month throughout the year. We will schedule specific events during our first meeting – Friday September 9th. I always welcome your ideas.

The youth group will meet in the youth room approximately one Sunday a month during church service, and we will have meetings every Friday night from 7:00pm to 8:30pm. 100% attendance is not necessary to belong to the groups.

I look forward to a fun and Spirit-filled year with our incredible young adults!

Mary Brown
Youth Group Coordinator

Music Notes

The Adult Choir will be returning to a regular schedule; every Sunday as of Homecoming Sunday, September 11. The Choir will meet in the Worship & Praise room at 8:45 am. Everyone, everyone, everyone is welcome and encouraged to help make music in worship! Please come sing with us!



Please join us on

Homecoming Sunday September 11, 2011

for a celebration outside (weather permitting)
during coffee hour!

Visit each station to:

find out more about our Boards and programs

fill out a pledge card

register your child for Sunday School

volunteer to teach

join the choir

volunteer to be an usher

and much more!

We hope to see you there!

The Deacons' Bench

Welcome back from summer vacation! As we resume our usual schedule of worship, music, Christian education and activities, we'd like to call your attention to something new.

Every Sunday since June, except for a couple of rainouts, Pastor Ken has been leading "Sonrise Services" at 8:30 a.m. in the garden chapel near the preschool playground. These services are relaxed, informal and meditative; they usually include a couple of familiar hymns sung a cappella, a Scripture reading and short meditation by Ken in which you are invited to share; and two prayer sessions, one that shares the familiar joys and concerns, and the other that shares a blessing at the end of the service.

The Sonrise Service gives everyone more of an opportunity to share their thoughts and prayers than they might do during a normal service. If you want to have some dialogue with Pastor Ken and others about the Scripture or the theme of the lesson, you get your chance. If you're like me, and more introspective, you can meditate quietly.

The garden chapel in early morning is a peaceful and meditative place. Turnout over the summer has ranged from about five people to around 15. It's a small and sharing group, but has been so successful that Pastor Ken has decided to continue it into the fall as long as interest and the weather hold out. (In event of rain or inclement weather, the early service is canceled.)

Please feel free to join and share in these Sonrise Services as a refreshing way to start your week. We hope to see you there!

- Howard Fielding for the Board of Deacons

Ushers Needed

Every month we have someone volunteer to be Head Usher. The head Usher is responsible for finding people to usher each Sunday and to insure that the ushers understand their responsibilities. If you would like to be Head Usher one month or just be put on the possible usher list please contact Jeanine in the office or Malcolm Todt at 203-758-1366.

MCC Prayer Group

O God, our Father, whose life is around us and in us always and who are the source of all health and healing, all strength and peace: teach us to know thee truly: take from us all that hinders the work of thy healing power, all our sins, all our anxieties and fears, all resentment and hardness of heart: and help us to learn to enter into stillness and peace with thee and to know that thou art our healer and redeemer, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

This prayer has been prayed in our church every week for at least the last 40 years. You say you've never heard it? Then you've never been to our church's Prayer Group. In fact, you might not even know we have a weekly Prayer Group.

We have a small group of faithful people who come to church every Thursday at 9:30 am and prayer for members and friends of our congregation. We finish by about 10; no coffee, no donuts, just prayer. (Although occasionally some of the pray-ers go for coffee afterward.)

If you have prayers of celebration or concern that you would like to add to our list, let Jeanine know in the office. If we have been praying for someone and they can come off our list, let us know that as well.

But best of all, come and join us. We join in an opening, read Scripture, read a prayer, lift up those whose names are on our prayer list, observe a moment of silence, and end with the Lord's Prayer.

No need to phone to see if we'll be here. We will. No need to make a reservation. Just come join us every Thursday at 9:30 am.

NEW COMMITTEE AT MCC

A new committee, THE PASTORAL AND STAFF RELATIONS COMMITTEE, was recently formed at MCC. The purpose of this committee is to serve as a sounding board for all church members. If there is something happening at MCC that you are happy about and would like to see more of, please let us know. If you have a new and exciting idea for our church, bring it on!! And if you have a concern regarding church life, we want to know that, too. We all want MCC to be a place where you are comfortable sharing your thoughts and ideas.

The current committee members are:

Lee DiCorpo 203-758-9439 jlsdcicorpo@yahoo.com

Julie Keggi 203-527-3596 gogardens@aol.com

Sal Sena 203-577-2045 smjosena@sbcglobal.net

John Somero 203-758-8182 johnsomero@gmail.com

Please contact any member and let us know what you're thinking!

Pastor Ken would like to share with you this version of the 23rd Psalm

which was read at Harriett Clark's Memorial Service.

THE 23RD PSALM

(Translation of a Japanese version)

"The Lord is my pace-setter, I shall not rush. He makes me stop and rest for quiet intervals. He provides me with images of stillness, which restore my serenity. He leads me in the ways of efficiency through calmness of mind, and his guidance is peace. Even though I have a great many things to accomplish each day, I will not fret, for his presence is here. His timelessness, His all importance, will keep me in balance. He prepares refreshment and renewal in the midst of my activity by anointing my mind with his oils of tranquility. My cup of joyous energy overflows. Surely harmony and effectiveness shall be fruits of my hours, for I shall walk in the pace of my Lord and dwell in His house forever.

Ken's Sermons are on the Website

Have you checked out the website lately?

If you missed a Sunday or want to hear Ken's sermon again they are now on the website. The current sermon is on the home page and his older sermons are on the archives page.

Also, click on a site topic and here is what else you will find on the website:

About Us – A short history of our church, our Mission Statement, our Covenant and links to UCC websites.

Worship – more information about our services and prayer groups.

What's Happening – upcoming events, our calendar and when board meetings are.

Pastor & Staff – get to know the staff and how to contact us.

Ministries – information about the Boards (Deacons, Christian Education, Mission, Trustees & Stewardship), Church Council, who our officers are, committees and the music program

Newsletter – a copy of our current Church Life. If you would like to not receive Church Life by mail and would just like to check it out on the web please let me know. You will be notified when it has been published.

Photo Gallery – photos of past events.

Archives – past sermons, Church LifeS and Calendars.

Preschool On The Green – learn about the School and it's programs.

If you have any questions please give me a call.

– Jeanine

AUCTION 2012

Yes, we are already thinking about next year's Auction. If at any time before next May you have things you would like to donate to the auction or flea market bring them to the church or give the office a call and we will make arrangements to pick them up. If you know of anyone; a neighbor, relative or friend, who is cleaning out, suggest they not throw those treasures away and call us instead. Don't forget to ask for a tax receipt. We are hoping that this will make next year's auction and flea market even more successful.

MISSION COMMITTEE UPDATE:

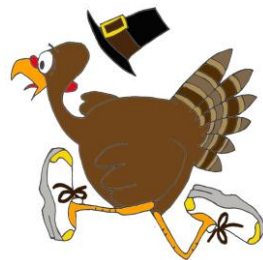
The mission committee is planning to continue to prayerfully donate money from the May Flea Market and Auction in the form of scholarships, special requests, Star Tree gifts, Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets to neighbors in need, and other worthy causes.

We also plan to do more service projects this year in Middlebury and the greater Waterbury area. If you have any special projects in mind, please let us know so that we can assist.

CALLING ALL WOMEN OF FAITH

Imagine being in the XL Center in Hartford with thousands of women who have one thing in common: FAITH. This year's Women of Faith event is called *Imagine*, and it's hard to imagine how this can be better than the 2010 event! The flyer says "Escape from the everyday at a Women of Faith weekend and be refreshed, encouraged, and inspired. Because the God who loves you can do far more than you can ever *Imagine*." The dates are Friday, November 11 and Saturday, November 12. A deposit of \$25.00 will secure a ticket in excellent seats for the event. For more information, please contact Debra Balletto at dballetto@sbcglobal.net. Tickets are going fast!!!

**All turkeys:
On your mark,
get set, GO!!!!**



Tony the turkey is ready to run in the

5TH Annual Pilgrim's Pace 5K Road Race

WELLNESS FAIR

**Fitness Walk
&
Children's Fun Run**

November 5th, 2011

Sign up any Sunday to walk or run in the event or to assist the road race committee.

Our goal this year is to raise \$7,000 and we really need your help in raising sponsorship money from community businesses and interested citizens.

Check out the church website soon for race information, registration and sponsorship forms.

Karen Waranowicz, Race Chairman

CHURCH RECORDS

BIRTHS

Nico Wiley, daughter of Asuka & Ross Sullivan-Wiley and granddaughter of Kent and Janine Sullivan-Wiley who was born in Japan on July 14th

BAPTISMS

*Madelynn Ella Shoemaker, daughter of Rebekah & Cliff Shoemaker and granddaughter of *Karen & *Bob Waranowicz on August 21st.*

DEATHS

*Howard Burke Watts on July 1st.
Harriett Clark on August 6th.*

*The Deadline for October
Church Life:*

Thursday, Sept. 15th @ 9:00 a.m.

If you take pictures during a service or a church function please email them to me for the Crier, Church Life, Bulletin Board and/or website.

Thank you! Jeanine
(jbonaventure@middleburyucc.org)