



Congregational Crier!



September 25, 2022
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Middlebury Congregational Church
203-758-2671 • www.middleburyucc.org

1242 Whittemore Rd.
Middlebury CT 06762

WELCOME FRIENDS & VISITORS!

We are glad you are with us for worship in person or virtually. If you would like more information on the Church, please call the church office.



Accessible restrooms, equipped with baby changing stations, are

located on the Upper Level and may be easily accessed using the elevator. The elevator entrance is located through the exit door in the front of the sanctuary on the left.



Childcare for infants through preschool age children is available in the

Storytelling Room which is in the upper level Sunday School. If you need assistance finding the nursery, please ask an usher.

Although we pray for all who serve in the military, we are individually praying for the following in the military services stateside or overseas: Jeff Blake, Jake Brown, Tyler Kamide, Cameron O'Bar.

We want your books!

The Mission Board would appreciate any donations of used books, puzzles, CDs & DVDs (in good condition and please no encyclopedias).

We are collecting donations beginning **September 3rd through October 9th**

Outdoor Worship Sunday 10/16 @10am Outdoor Chapel

Bring a chair & something for shade
Service will be filmed and posted online afterwards

Online streaming

We are Live Streaming the Sunday Service on YouTube.
If you do not want to appear in the video please choose a pew downstairs in the last 5 rows.

HEARING ASSISTANCE

We have headphones to assist you in hearing the service. So, if you don't want to miss a word of the lovely music, the announcements, the readings, or the sermon please let an usher know and he/she will set you up with a pair.

Sunday School Registration is Open!

Registration is open for Sunday School & Nursery care for the 2022-2023 school year! Forms are online: <https://middleburyucc.breezechms.com/form/SundaySchool>
We are also looking for more volunteers to help teach our Sunday School lessons. Please email Valerie or talk with a member of the Board of Faith Formation if you are interested in volunteering!

MCC Liberty Puzzle

Get your heirloom-quality, laser-cut MCC Liberty Puzzle in time for Christmas giving! Order by Sept. 25 at middleburyucc.org/giving-to-mcc/puzzle/



Meet Our Ministry Intern, Heather Dechent

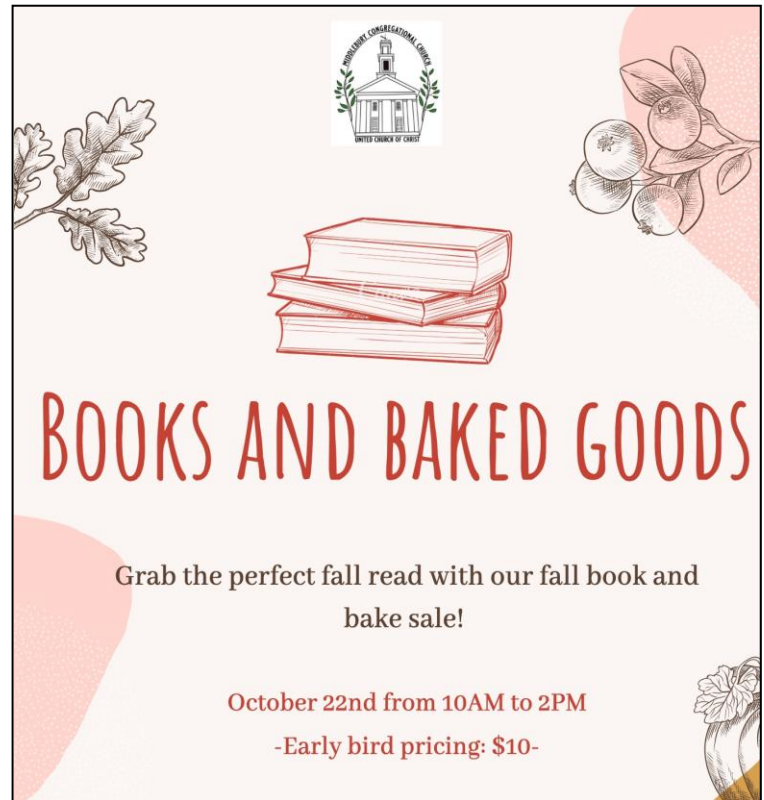
Heather Dechent is a Member in Discernment (that's the term for being in the United Church of Christ ordination process) with the New Haven Association and the Hopeville Church in Waterbury. She's working towards her MDiv at United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities. She and her wife Sara live in Wolcott with their five children, Sara's parents and Heather's mother, as well as their two cats Ruth and Beauty.

Resources for Help with Grief

In the Parlor next to the Social Hall, there are booklets on grief on the bookshelf. They are a sequence of four books for the first year after a loss (a few weeks after, a few months after, 6 months after, and a year after.) Please feel free to take a set for you or someone you know. You're also welcome to borrow a set and bring them back. If you need help finding them, ask Pastor Katrina.

Book and Bake Sale Volunteers Needed!

Sign up sheets to volunteer are downstairs on the bulletin board outside the Social Hall. We need cashiers, bakers, set up, and clean up.



The poster features a light pink background with decorative elements: a branch of oak leaves on the left, a branch of oranges on the right, and a stack of three books in the center. At the top center is a circular logo for the United Church of Christ, which includes a church building and the text 'UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST' and 'CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH'. Below the books, the title 'BOOKS AND BAKED GOODS' is written in a large, red, hand-drawn font. Underneath the title, the text reads 'Grab the perfect fall read with our fall book and bake sale!' in a smaller, black font. At the bottom, the event details are listed: 'October 22nd from 10AM to 2PM' and '-Early bird pricing: \$10-' in red font. A small illustration of a vase with flowers is visible in the bottom right corner.

Open & Affirming Updates

John 15:12 says, "my command is this: love each other as I have loved you." Keeping this teaching in mind, we would like to remind you that our church has organized a working group of volunteers to provide informational opportunities about the possibility of advancing our status as an Open and Affirming church. The current members of the group are Pastor Katrina Manzi, Sal Sena, Val and Len Beard, Debbie Barlow, and myself: Kelly Ecsedy.

The purpose of these informational opportunities will be to answer questions or address concerns that members of our church may have about the possibility of moving forward as an Open and Affirming congregation.

On October 15, we will offer a viewing of the movie "Pray Away" in the social hall. This is a documentary that is available on Netflix for those would like to view it in advance. On October 19th, there will be a discussion of this movie, also in the social hall, for those who wish to participate in person or virtually.

This winter, there will be a book discussion (book and date TBD) so keep a look out for further details on this. We are also currently finalizing plans to invite a guest preacher to speak about LGBTQ+ as well as provide some questions and answers related to some LGBTQ+ issues in the church.

If there are any comments or questions, please feel free to contact any of the above Open and Affirming working group members.

Thank you,
Kelly Ecsedy

