



Congregational Crier!



July 3, 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 in person or virtual worship as we celebrate the Fourth Sunday after Pentecost. We remind you that all believers are welcome to share the Lord's Supper. We ask that you hold the bread and the cup until you are invited to partake together signifying our unity in Christ. If you would like more information on the Church, please call the church office.

Large print Bulletins are available. If you would like one, please ask an usher.



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 wing. 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.

Interested in Joining or Learning More about MCC?

Informational Meeting Scheduled 9/18. After worship on 9/18 we're having an informational meeting about the church where you can learn more about the church and make new connections. Contact Pastor Katrina (kmanzi@Middleburyuc.org) for more info."



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.

Online streaming

We are Live Streaming the Sunday Service on YouTube via a link on the Church's Website www.middleburyucc.org. The link will bring you to our YouTube page where you can view the streaming service along with past services.

If you do not want to appear in the video please choose a pew downstairs in the last 5 rows.

Also, during the 'Prayers on Behalf of the Congregation' you may not want to mention last names.

THIS WEEK

Sun., July 3
8:30 am Adult Choir Practice
10:00 am **Worship**
Coffee Hour

NEXT WEEK

Mon., July 4 OFFICES CLOSED
Tues., July 5 12:00 pm AA (A)
7:30 pm AA (A)
Wed., July 6 8:00 am Stewardship Brd. Mtg.
Thurs., July 7 10:30 am AA (A)
7:00 pm Scouts - Troops 5&6 (A)
Sat., July 9 10:30 am AA (A)
Sun., July 10 **10:00 am** **Outdoor Worship**
Coffee Hour



Church Office Hours:

June 20th ~ August 22nd
Monday – Friday
9:00am – 12:00pm

Pastor's Schedule:

July 18th ~ August 7th
On Vacation



Communion has been moved to **July 31st** from August 7th due to availability of substitute clergy.



BACKPACKS FOR EDUCATION

Again this year, we are collecting much needed backpacks and school supplies, for Wellmore Behavioral Health in Waterbury. Below is a list of items needed.

Children UNDER 7

- Backpacks
- Paper
- #2 Pencils and erasers
- Pencil sharpeners
- Pencil boxes or pouches
- Crayons
- Rulers
- Child Safe Scissors
- Glue sticks
- Pencil sharpeners
- Washable markers
- Composition Book
- Pocket Folders (with prongs)
- Pocket Folders (without prongs)
- Tissues
- Dry Erase Markers (black & colors)

Children OVER 7

- Backpacks
- #2 Pencils and erasers
- Pencil sharpeners
- Pencil boxes or pouches
- Pens (red, black, blue)
- Heavy Duty 3 ring binders
- Paper
- Spiral Notebooks
- Assignment pads/Planners
- Index cards
- Calculators
- Rulers
- Pocket Folders (with prongs)
- Pocket Folders (without prongs)
- Tissues
- Dry Erase Markers (black & colors)
- Paper Clips

All items may be brought to the church during office hours or left on the multiplication table in the sanctuary.

All donations must be in the office by August 15th.



OPERATION PAPERBACK

Operation Paperback is a national, non-profit organization, whose volunteers collect gently-used **Paperback** books in good shape and send them to American troops overseas, as well as veterans and military families here at home. The most requested books are: Mysteries, History, Science Fiction, Action, True Crime, Biographies, Best Sellers, Horror, Fantasy
You may leave your donations on the Multiplication Table or bring them to the church office during office hours.



Don't forget the GWIM FOOD BANK

Many items are needed, such as non-perishable food donations such as canned vegetables & soup, cereal, peanut butter & jelly, rice, coffee etc., personal hygiene items, cleaning products and paper goods such as paper towels & toilet paper. You may leave your donations on the Multiplication table in the sanctuary or bring them to the church office.

ONA update from Church Council

The Middlebury Congregational Church Council is excited to announce that we are beginning the Open and Affirming process this fall.

In response to member feedback and inquiries over the last year, Church Council voted to form a working group to gather information about the Open and Affirming process and explore whether MCC should begin the process of an ONA (Open and Affirming) designation. (“Open and Affirming” is a designation within the United Church of Christ that indicates a congregation has voted and made a covenant to be officially welcoming and affirming of LGBTQ people after a process of discernment and education.)

The ONA working group has reviewed a number of resources and met with representatives from the Southern New England Conference and area churches who have recently completed an ONA process, and the group report was brought to our Church Council. After hearing the report of the ONA working group, the Church Council unanimously voted at our June meeting to begin an Open and Affirming process, with educational events and discussions to begin this fall. The ONA working group is now the Open and Affirming committee and has been made an official committee of the Church Council. The ONA committee will make regular reports to Church Council on planned events, member feedback and progress.

The process at our church will begin with educational events and discussions, and during that part of the process there will be opportunities for member feedback and participation. Depending on the feedback and will of the congregation we will either continue with our educational programming or the Church Council will decide to call a meeting of the congregation to vote on whether or not we will officially be designated as an Open and Affirming congregation.

We are at the beginning of a process whose direction will be determined by our collective voices. We do not have a specific timeline, rather we will work collaboratively with and move according to the will of our church.

We are looking forward to beginning the ONA process together and seeing where the light of the Holy Spirit leads us as we enter this time of learning and discernment.

Together in Christ,
 Ellen Aronheim, MCC Council Chair