

# CONGREGATIONAL CRIER



January 29, 2023

Middlebury Congregational Church

1242 Whittemore Rd.

Page 1

203-758-2671 • [www.middleburyucc.org](http://www.middleburyucc.org)

Middlebury CT 06762

## Welcome to Worship

To keep up with what's going on here at MCC, you can visit our website ([middleburyucc.org](http://middleburyucc.org)), like us on Facebook, follow us on Instagram (@middleburycongregational), and subscribe to our YouTube Channel.

## Restrooms

Restrooms are located down the stairs in the Narthex/entrance of the sanctuary. Accessible, single person restrooms, equipped with changing tables, 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. Please ask an usher for directions/assistance.

## Sunday School & Nursery Childcare

Children are always welcome in worship. Sunday School is available during worship for PreK-3<sup>rd</sup> grade the first Sunday of the month and PreK-7<sup>th</sup> grade the other Sundays. School age children will begin Sunday in worship before heading out together with their teachers in the beginning part of worship. The bulletin will note what age groups are going to Sunday School and any occasional changes. Staffed childcare for infants through preschoolers is available in the Nursery, which is in the upper level Sunday School. If you need assistance, please ask an usher. For more info about Sunday School and childcare, contact our Faith Formation Coordinator, Valerie Beard ([vbeard@middleburyucc.org](mailto:vbeard@middleburyucc.org))

## For More Info/Contact the Pastor

For more information about the church, to sign up for our newsletter, or to contact the pastor, please email Pastor Katrina Manzi ([kmanzi@middleburyucc.org](mailto:kmanzi@middleburyucc.org))

## Communion

Communion is celebrated the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month and is open to all, including children, who wish to grow in faith in Jesus Christ.

## This Service is Being Livestreamed

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

## Hearing Assistance

We have headphones to assist you in hearing the service. Please let an usher know, and they will set you up with a pair.

## Winter Mission Projects

### Sock-it-to-Homelessness

We are collecting socks for GWIM to give to people experiencing homelessness in the Waterbury community. Socks are the most needed clothing item for homeless people. New, gently used, and even mismatched socks appreciated! Donations can be placed in white hamper near the Multiplication Table in the Sanctuary.

### Mitten Line

Starting in January, we will be collecting hats, gloves, and scarves for GWIM. Donations can be placed on the clothesline up in the Social Hall.

### GWIM Food Donations

Year round we collect nonperishable food items for the food pantry at Greater Waterbury Interfaith Ministries. Donations may be left on the Multiplication Table to the left of the pulpit.

## ANNUAL MEETING



### This Sunday: Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the Middlebury Congregational Church to receive reports, approve the budget, and elect officers is taking place after worship on January 29<sup>th</sup>.

### Church Planning Breakfast: 2/11 @ 8:30

On Saturday, 2/11, we will be having a breakfast to plan for the coming year and talk about what our priorities are as a church. People from all aspects of the church are welcome to come; this is for anyone in the church who wants to be involved!

# OPEN AND AFFIRMING BOOK DISCUSSION

*Unclobber: Rethinking Our Misuse of the Bible on Homosexuality*

By Colby Martin

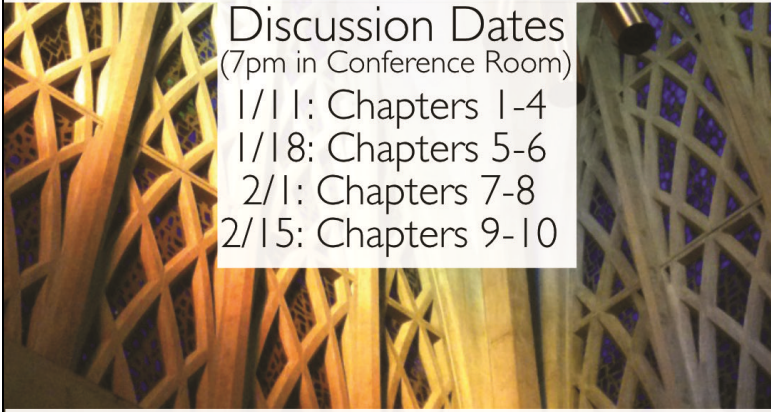
Discussion Dates  
(7pm in Conference Room)

1/11: Chapters 1-4

1/18: Chapters 5-6

2/1: Chapters 7-8

2/15: Chapters 9-10



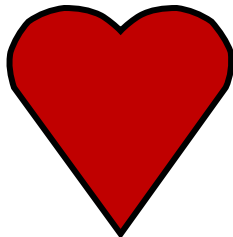
MIDDLEBURY CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

### About the Book

Martin is a straight, evangelical pastor who changed his mind about LGBTQ people and the church. The book is part memoir of his journey of changing his mind and the impacts it had on his career and family, and the other part of the book is breaking down the common scripture passages people use to claim homosexuality is a sin or to exclude LGBTQ people from the church.

### Valentines for Seniors: after Worship 2/5

The Watermark at East Hill in Southbury is looking for help spreading some love and joy this Valentine's Day, so we will be making valentines for their residents in rehab, assisted living, and independent living after worship on Sunday 2/5. All ages welcome to participate! We will have supplies available in the Social Hall, and you're also welcome to make a valentine or two for someone special to you!



### Scout Sunday: 2/5

On 2/5 we'll celebrate our (BSA) Scouts! Our church is the charter organization for Troops 5 and 6. We'll be joined by scouts from our troops and other local troops, and we'll hear some about the scouting program.

# Sunday School Teachers Needed!

Contact:  
[vbeard@middleburyucc.org](mailto:vbeard@middleburyucc.org)

### Sunday School Teachers Needed

We're looking for volunteers to teach Sunday School as we begin 2023. Scan the QR code to see the lesson schedule and available dates!



# Souper Bowl Sunday

## February 12th

### Soup \$6 per pint

### Souper Bowl Sunday

The Mission Board is again going to sell soups for Souper Bowl Sunday on February 12th. We will have a variety of soups to sell for \$6.00 a pint. If anyone wants to make their specialty to contribute to our fundraiser it would be greatly appreciated and you can get the pint containers in the kitchen. We are expecting a coconut curry lentil, best tomato soup ever, Lasagna soup, chicken soup and others. Last year we had a sell out so we are hoping for the same this year!