The Congregational Church of Middlebury, United Church of Christ

MIDDUCC

Our mission is to live as Jesus taught, loving God and loving our neighbors as ourselves.

Rev. Dr. Andy Nagy-Benson, Senior Pastor
Rev. Elizabeth Gleich, Associate Pastor

August 9, 2026
Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

PRELUDE "Communion" *Jeff Buettner*
Arthur Foote

WELCOME *Rev. Dr. Andy Nagy-Benson*

TIME OF SILENCE

INTROIT "Sand Beach Psalm"
Jeff Buettner

CALL TO WORSHIP *Chris Ketcham*

Come, let us sing to the Lord;
let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation! (Ps. 95:1)
It is good to sing praises to your name, O Most High;
to declare your steadfast love in the morning,
and your faithfulness by night. (Ps. 92:1-2)
Sing to the Lord a new song;
sing to the Lord, all the earth. (Ps. 96:1)
I will sing to the Lord as long as I live;
I will sing praise to God while I have being. (Ps. 104:33)
Praise the Lord!

*HYMN "Come, Christians, Join to Sing" #90

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

In confession, we name our need for forgiveness and open ourselves to experience the grace of God. With confidence in the wideness of God's mercy, let us confess our sins, first in unison, then in silence.

Bold print indicates a collective response. *Please rise in body or spirit.

Gracious God, we have sinned, and we are sorry. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbor as ourselves. There are things we have done and left undone that have dimmed the light in another's eyes. We have missed opportunities to be the hands of Christ– hands outstretched in welcome and in service to others. God, please forgive us. And with a full gust of grace, send us into this day to bear your likeness and to magnify your love. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayers …

Silent Prayer

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

"Grace is unearned love. It's the help you receive when you have no bright ideas left, when you are empty and desperate and have discovered that your best thinking and most charming charm have failed you. Grace is the light or electricity or juice or breeze that takes you from that isolated place and puts you with others who are as startled and embarrassed and eventually grateful as you are to be there." (Anne Lamott, *Traveling Mercies*). By the grace of God, made manifest in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. **Thanks be to God.**

PASSING THE PEACE

RESPONSE "This Is the Day" #286

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE *Eliana Cañas Parra*

SCRIPTURE Matthew 14:22-33 *Doug Campbell*

This is the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

SERMON Chaos *Rev. Dr. Andy Nagy-Benson*

*HYMN "I Want Jesus to Walk with Me" #627

OFFERING
Invitation
Collection of Gifts

Offertory "Jig and Reel in D: Acadia"
Jeff Buettner

*Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host:
Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost. Amen

*Prayer of Dedication

PASTORAL PRAYER & THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

*HYMN "O God, Our Help in Ages Past" #67

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE "Toccata in F"
Dietrich Buxtehude

Please remember these people in your prayers: *The family and friends of Patricia Newman*; *Peter Beckett; Bonnie Stevens; Thomas Seils; Lorrie Muller; Jay Benson; Mina Potaczek; Ken Brownsword; Annie Magri; Al Stiles; Mary Williams; Frank Winkler; Helen McFerran; Jim Robinson; Peter Carothers; and Maureen Williams.*

Please remember family members in the military: *Charlie Beazley*; *Riley Benoit; Aaron Brown; Joshua Hayes;* and *Ryan Brown*.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **The nursery** is open downstairs for little ones aged 6 months to 4 years (open from 9:45-11:15). Church school for our older kids is taking a break this week and next. We'll see you on Aug. 23 for blessing of the backpacks!
- In gratitude for Eliana's time with us this summer, **a special offering will be collected today for the internship program at Yale Divinity School.** Please use the special collection envelope in your bulletin today or donate through midducc.org, at the top of the home page, select "Giving." Then select VANCO. Under "Contributions to Specific Funds" choose "Yale Divinity School internship." Thank you!

- **The roof project is now underway.** It is expected to take approximately three months to complete. During this time, the Fellowship Hall entrance (south side of the hall, near the Youth Room) and the exit near the Columbarium will not be available for use. We expect parking on Route 7 will be reduced once construction begins on the east side of the building (in 2-3 weeks). Please plan accordingly and allow extra time when visiting the church.



We are an open and affirming congregation of the United Church of Christ. We regard everyone with equal respect and concern, regardless of their race, gender, sexual orientation, economic status, age, nationality, marital status or physical, mental or emotional disability.



We are a Creation Justice Church of the United Church of Christ.

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We share church news, events, and inspiration online—find us on Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube by searching @middUCC. Our website is midducc.org. Follow along wherever you like to connect!

Ways to donate online: PayPal, Venmo and more.

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