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 16, 2026
Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

PRELUDE *Jeff Buettner*

WELCOME *Rev. Dr. Andy Nagy-Benson*

TIME OF SILENCE

INTROIT *Steve Abbott, Rachael Nagy-Benson, Jeff Buettner*

CALL TO WORSHIP *Kathy Jewett*

May God be gracious to us and bless us
and make his face to shine upon us,
that your way may be known upon earth,
your saving power among all nations.
Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you. (Psalm 67:1-3)
This is the day that the Lord has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it. (Psalm 118:24)

*HYMN "All People That on Earth Do Dwell" #18

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

As individuals and as a community of faith, we enter into confession to ask for the forgiveness we need. Let us offer this prayer, and the prayers we speak in silence, with confidence in the wideness of God's mercy:

Gracious God, for the limits we place on love, please forgive us. For our failures to multiply another's joy and to divide another's sorrow, forgive us. For our selfish thoughts and thoughtless acts, God forgive us. And by your

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

redeeming grace, make a fresh start in us today. Create in us a clean heart and put a new and right spirit within us. Restore to us the joy of your salvation and sustain in us a willing spirit. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayers …

Silent Prayer

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

"The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, God's mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning" (Lamentations 3:22-23a). In the light of this new day, we celebrate this good news with thanks and praise: by the grace of God, made manifest in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. **Thanks be to God!**

PASSING THE PEACE

RESPONSE "I've Got Peace Like a River" #530

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SCRIPTURE Isaiah 56:1, 6-8 *Steve Jewett*
Matthew 15:21-28

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

SERMON Jesus Makes a U-turn *Rev. Dr. Andy Nagy-Benson*

*HYMN "For the Healing of the Nations" #668

OFFERING
Invitation
Collection of Gifts
Offertory
*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 "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee" #2

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Thank you to Steve Abbott, Rachael Nagy-Benson, and Jeff Buettner for providing special music today.

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 (from 9:45-11:15). Church school for our older kids is taking a break this week. We'll see you again on Aug. 23!
- **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 1-2 weeks). Please plan accordingly and allow extra time when visiting the church.
- **Ladies Lunch** will be on Friday, August 21 at noon at the Waybury Inn. Please let Nancy Foster know if you plan to attend (802-989-2772 or cvpropnf@gmail.com) no later than Wednesday, August 19. As usual, the cost is $20 which includes tax, tip and the complete lunch. Please feel free to invite others who you think would enjoy having lunch with us!
- **The Justice, Compassion, and Love Team** is organizing a visit to the United States District Court in Rutland tomorrow (Monday, August 17) to attend a ceremony for people becoming new U.S. Citizens. Please let John Emerson know if you would like to join us (802-388-7826 or

jemerson@middlebury.edu). We will be carpooling from the Church at 9 a.m. and the ceremony begins at 11 a.m.

- **Gather & Share:** So far this year we have donated 2,812 pounds of goods to HOPE food shelf! Our theme this month is *personal papers* (toilet paper, menstrual products, diapers and baby wipes, tissues, and paper towels). Bring donations to worship each Sunday, or drop them off at the church office (Monday–Thursday, 9 a.m.–12 p.m.). Thank you for supporting these efforts!
- **MIDDWeek Morning Prayer** is held each Wednesday at 9 a.m. During this online service, we share prayer concerns, meditate on scripture, and listen to centering music. This coming week, we will again meet via the Zoom platform. Want to get an email with the link each week? Email office@midducc.org to be added to the list!



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.

Senior Pastor – Andy Nagy-Benson
andy@midducc.org

Associate Pastor – Elizabeth Gleich
elizabeth@midducc.org

Member in Discernment – Eliana Cañas Parra eliana@midducc.org

Church Administrator – Mira Cabrera
office@midducc.org

Organist – Jeff Buettner
jeff@midducc.org

Music Director - Ronnie Romano
ronnie@midducc.org

Director of Children & Youth - May Poduschnick
may@midducc.org

Building Managers - Wendy Warren & Mike Rowe
buildingmanager@midducc.org