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 23, 2026
Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

PRELUDE — partita on "Lasst uns er freuen" John Ferguson — *Jeff Buettner*

WELCOME — *Rev. Dr. Andy Nagy-Benson*

TIME OF SILENCE

INTROIT — "Mazurka in A-flat Major Op. 24, No. 3" Frédéric Chopin — *Ronnie Romano*

CALL TO WORSHIP — *Rachael Nagy-Benson*

Love all Creation
The whole of it and every grain of sand
Love every leaf
Every ray of God's light
Love the animals
Love the plants
Love everything
If you love everything
You will perceive
The divine mystery in things
And once you have perceived it
You will begin to comprehend it ceaselessly
More and more everyday
And you will at last come to love the whole world
With an abiding universal love. (Fyodor Dostoyevsky)

Let us worship our Creator.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

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

*HYMN "All Creatures of Our God and King" #22

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

The poet Mary Oliver writes, "Lord God, mercy is in your hands, pour/me a little. And tenderness, too./ My need is great." In this time of confession, let us speak our need for forgiveness and listen for Love's reply:

Gracious God, we have strayed from your ways. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. Have mercy on us and forgive us, that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayers ….

Silent Prayer

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

"The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you (2 Cor.). You are loved. You are enough. You are forgiven. In life and in death, you belong to God. **Thanks be to God.**

PASSING THE PEACE

RESPONSE "Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying" #305

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE *May Poduschnick*

Children and adult leaders may go to Unity Hall for a special program.

SCRIPTURE Romans 12:1-13 *Gwen Nagy-Benson*

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

SERMON Church Is *Rev. Dr. Andy Nagy-Benson*

*HYMN "Community of Christ" #655

OFFERING

Invitation

Collection of Gifts

Offertory "Prelude in G-flat Major Op. 23, No. 10"
Sergei Rachmaninoff

*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 "I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me" #614

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

The flowers for today's service were donated in memory of Peter Beckett.

Please remember these people in your prayers: *The family and friends of Peter Beckett; the family and friends of Patricia Newman; 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).
- **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.

- **Welcome Sunday is Sept. 13.** After worship that day everyone is invited to the home of Churchill and Janet Franklin (564 Cider Mill Road in Cornwall) for our annual church picnic from 11:30–1:00 pm. The Boards of Christian Development and Membership will provide hot dogs, hamburgers, veggie burgers, drinks, and desserts. Please bring a side dish or salad (with a serving utensil) to share.
- **Gather & Share:** So far this year we have donated 2,963 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.

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