

The Meetinghouse News

The First Congregational Church of Madison

December 2023

Worship with us this Christmas Season

December 3— 1st Sunday of Advent—10 am worship followed by Advent Luncheon

All are invited to the Advent Lunch following worship. Crafts and activities for children.

December 10 - 2nd Sunday of Advent—10 am worship

Martha Hoffman from Called to Care Uganda will be with us in worship and will share a special "Second Hour" session in the chapel after worship about the difference the wells we have helped fund in Uganda make.

December 17 - 3rd Sunday of Advent— 10 am worship & 5:30 Christmas Caroling

Come gather in front of the church at 5:30 pm to sing our favorite Carols. Dress warmly! Hot chocolate, songbooks, and candles will be provided.

December 20—Longest Night: An Advent Service of Healing and Hope—7 pm

Gather with us on the Winter Solstice - the longest night of the year - to acknowledge the shadows and darkness in our lives and look forward together in hope for the coming light. This worship service is marked by song, silence, candlelight and prayer. We invite you to join us for a time of peace and centering in a busy season. All are welcome.

December 24—4th Sunday of Advent/Christmas Eve

10 am - The Christmas Pageant

Come experience the joy of Christmas as our children tell the Christmas story and we sing our favorite Christmas hymns.

9 pm—Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship

Join us for this celebratory worship as we share the Christmas Story in word and song, with special music and candlelight.



Worship with Us!

Sundays 10 am

Worship In Person

Join us in the sanctuary for worship.

Worship Virtually

Worship will be livestreamed on YouTube:
www.youtube.com/@fccmadisonct/streams

And on Facebook:

(www.facebook.com/fccmadison)

Worship on TV on Madison Public Access

Connection: A Ministry for Women

Join us Wednesday December 13, 7:00-8:30 pm in the Parlor for meaningful conversation, friendship and prayer.

Men's Bible Study—Tuesday mornings at 8 am in the Study. Join us!

Bible Study: Wednesdays, December 6 and 13 at 10 am & 7 pm. All are welcome!

Help Lead Worship!

We are always looking for as many voices as possible to participate in Sunday morning worship.

If you are interested in reading scripture on a Sunday morning this Fall, please contact Todd Vetter at tcvetter@gmail.com



COFFEE HOUR Join us in Hubley Hall after worship each Sunday. Fellowship provides coffee, tea, and juice. Volunteers are needed to bring cheese and crackers, fruit, cookies, sandwiches, deviled eggs, coffee cake, banana bread, etc. each week. If you can donate an item, please contact alisonhubley@gmail.com or sign up at Coffee Hour. Coffee Hour is a great time to welcome guests, reconnect with friends, and sign up for activities posted on the bulletin boards.

Hope to see you there!

TUESDAY NEWSDAY

Sign up for our weekly email, the Tuesday Newsdays, and stay up-to-date with everything that is happening at FCC.

To sign up, send an email to: mainoffice@fccmadison.org



Volunteers Needed!

Would you like to help broadcast our worship services?

We are looking to build up a team of videographers to help run our worship broadcasts. We will train you!

If you are interested, please contact Rev. Sarah svetter@fccmadison.org



Birthdays

Birthdays are special days of celebration and acknowledgement of the gifts of life.

Please join us in praying for these December birthdays!

Frances Blackwood	12/03	Adam Hubley	12/07	Eli Skonieczny	12/04
Alice Borner	12/02	Sharon Lyman	12/28	Helen Stroebel-Glaser	12/13
William Carroll	12/02	David Ngeta	12/29	Cynthia Tanon-Santos	12/09
Emme Choynet	12/22	Jonathan Pardo	12/25	Loretta Walz	12/13
James Coer	12/08	Tai Sanders	12/03	Natalie Weaver	12/28
Carrie Edwards	12/28	Lee Satterwhite	12/13	William G. West	12/03
Peter Hawkins	12/29	Matthew Simpson	12/21	Don V. Williams	12/22
		Dean Singewald II	12/23	Bruce Wilson Jr.	12/22

Peace. Joy. Hope. Love.

Poinsettia Dedication Form (Please *print clearly* all information)

It is a tradition at FCC to decorate the Meetinghouse with Poinsettias for Christmas. You may purchase one (or more) using this form. Be sure to indicate whether you wish to take the plant home with you, *after* the 9:00 p.m. Christmas Eve service.

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Please print (**clearly**) my dedication as follows:

Quantity: _____

Please check if applicable:

_____ I wish to pick up my plant ***after*** the 9:00 p.m. December 24th Worship service

Please make your check of \$12.50 (for each plant) payable to:

The First Congregational Church marking it “**Poinsettia.**”

You can drop this form with your check in the offering plate, bring it

by the office , or mail it.

Forms and payment must be in the church office by December 4th



Here's where to get the latest scoop on what's happening musically in the church!
For even more information, call Nathan at: (203) 245-2739, ext. 14.



SING FOR ADVENT AND/OR CHRISTMAS EVE

As in past years, anyone who would like to sing with the Adult Choir during Advent and/or for the 9:00 pm Christmas Eve service is welcome to start attending Thursday evening rehearsals in the Chapel from 7:00-8:30 pm. **Any interested singers are requested to start attending no later than Thursday, December 7th.**

On December 3rd, the Adult Choir will sing Don Besig's *Prayer Advent Hymn* which cleverly incorporates the familiar tune of *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*. On December 10th, they will sing Charles Gounod's gorgeous *Blessed is He who cometh*. On December 17th, they will sing Michael Burkhardt's *Come Now, Savior of the Nations* which features a Korean melody (and is sung in Korean) while also incorporating the 16th-century German tune 'Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland'. Both Spirit and Adult Choirs will combine to sing the festive *Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn* the morning of Sunday, December 24th.

For the 10:00 pm Christmas Eve service, the pieces the Adult Choir will be singing are absolutely beautiful. *Candle Carol* by K. Lee Scott speaks of the symbols associated with candles during the season, and the presence of warmth and light are prevalent throughout the anthem. Hal Hopson's *Thou Shalt Know Him When He Comes* encourages us to look for and recognize Jesus not as someone wearing a crown or fancy clothing; instead, His coming will be known "by the holy harmony which His coming makes in thee." The Choir will also sing the Christmas spiritual "Mary Had a Baby", a lively arrangement of the traditional French carol *Sing We Now of Christmas*, and Richard Wm. Donohue's intricate and fugue-like arrangement of *God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen*. All of these pieces will be accompanied by organ, string quintet, brass quartet, and percussion.

I hope you will join us—please get in touch with me so I can prepare music for you!

CHRISTMAS EVE HANDBELL ROTATION

The Handbell Choir will also be playing for the **9:00 pm Christmas Eve service**, and you are invited to ring with them! Here is the rehearsal schedule:

- **Thursday, Nov. 30th, 6:00-6:45 pm**
- **Thursday, Dec. 7th, 6:00-6:45 pm**
- **Thursday, Dec. 14th, 6:00-6:45 pm:** rehearsal
- **Wednesday, Dec. 20th, 8:00-8:45 pm:** rehearsal
- **Thursday, Dec. 21st, 7:00-7:20 pm:** rehearsal with Adult Choir
- **Sunday, Dec. 24th, 7:45 pm:** prepare for 9:00 pm service

As a reminder, you must be able to make at least three out of the four rehearsals, and you must be over 12 years of age. Don't be afraid to try it—we have a blast, and there is absolutely no experience necessary. **Just let me know by Tuesday, November 28th so I can prepare appropriate music for you.** Thanks, and I hope you'll consider playing!



SING
ON
CHRISTMAS EVE!





Upcoming Music at the Meetinghouse:

MADISON 'ABC' CONCERT Sunday, December 3rd, 4:00 pm

Madison ABC's ('A Better Chance') purpose is to educate, prepare, and support talented young men of color for college and to be successful leaders in society. There is no admission to this annual holiday benefit concert featuring many guest ensembles, but a free-will offering will be gratefully accepted.



HANDEL'S *MESSIAH* Saturday, December 16th, 7:30 pm

Hallelujah! "The Trumpet Shall Sound" in our sanctuary as the New Haven Symphony Orchestra presents Handel's traditional oratorio with the ethereal voices of Christ Church Choir, conducted by Music Director Alasdair Neale. Tickets are available at their website: newhavensymphony.org.



Our asylee family from the Democratic Republic of the Congo has moved to Branford after living in Madison for 3 1/2 years as they needed a 2 bedroom apartment. David is still working full time at Walmart and Ndongo works at the Madison Beach Hotel. Gracia attends Indian Neck School. Thank you for all of your gifts and help with their move. They are very grateful for the kindness this church has shown them. Here is what they still need: a vacuum cleaner, a loveseat or small couch or easy chair for their living room, 1 queen split box spring, and a used car if anyone wants to donate one. Please contact alisonhubble@gmail.com if you can help.





Winter dinner groups for all FCC adults (single, married, widowed, divorced, or separated) are forming now! Those signing up will be placed in a group of 9 adults and meet for dinner once a month in January, February, and March at someone's home (note: you **do not** have to host it at your home). The group leader will assign everyone to bring part of the meal (appetizer, entree, salad, side dish, vegetable, dessert, or wine). Nine to Dine is a great way to meet new friends in our church and to become better acquainted with others! To sign up, email alisonhubley@gmail.com by **December 18th** and indicate if you are willing to be a group leader and/or a host.



**Our Youth Service Trip
with Appalachia Service Project will be
June 15-22, 2024**

We invite:

- Youth (graduating 8th grade + older)
- Adult Chaperones
- Adult Volunteers

For more information, contact Rev. Todd
tcvetter@gmail.com



Christmas Carol Sing

Join us at the front of the
Meetinghouse on Sunday, Dec. 17th at
5:30pm to sing Christmas Carols!
Dress Warmly! Music and hot cocoa
will be provided. Feel free to invite your
friends and neighbors.



Advent Lunch

All adults and children are invited to an
Advent Lunch to be held in Hubley Hall after
worship on Sunday, Dec. 3rd. Come join
together as a church family as we begin the
Advent season!



**HABITAT BUILD!
HELP BUILD OR
RENOVATE HOMES
IN NEW HAVEN**

Must be
age 16+

SAT. DEC 16

Children & Youth

Our Treble Choir performed beautifully!



Our FCC kids are kind kids who radiate kindness.



Christmas Pageant!

Sunday, December 24
during the 10:00 am
worship service

Rehearsals:
Tuesdays, Dec. 12 and 19
5:30-6:30

Contact Kristen Skonieczny if you
would like to participate!
kmsketch@gmail.com



FCC kids of all ages made some fantastic Thanksgiving crafts.





The First Congregational Church of Madison

26 Meetinghouse Lane, Madison, CT 06443

Overlooking the Green

An Open & Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ

Non-profit
U.S. Postage
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Guilford, CT
Permit #271

Change
Service
Requested

The Meetinghouse News December 2023

This newsletter is available on our website and via email. If you would prefer an electronic version to a paper copy, please let the office know.

Mainoffice
@fccmadison.org

Sunday Worship

10:00 a.m.

Join our livestream worship on our YouTube page: youtube.com/@fccmadisonct/streams

Our Worship Service is broadcast on Madison Access TV Channel 18, Sunday at 12:00pm and 10:00pm, check their listings.



The Revs. Sarah and Todd Vetter, Senior Ministers

Phone: 203-245-2739

Fax: 203-245-3341

E-mail: mainoffice@fccmadison.org

Website: www.fccmadison.org

Facebook: [fccmadison](https://www.facebook.com/fccmadison)

Church Office Hours:

9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Monday - Friday



GO.BE.LOVE.

