

The Meetinghouse News

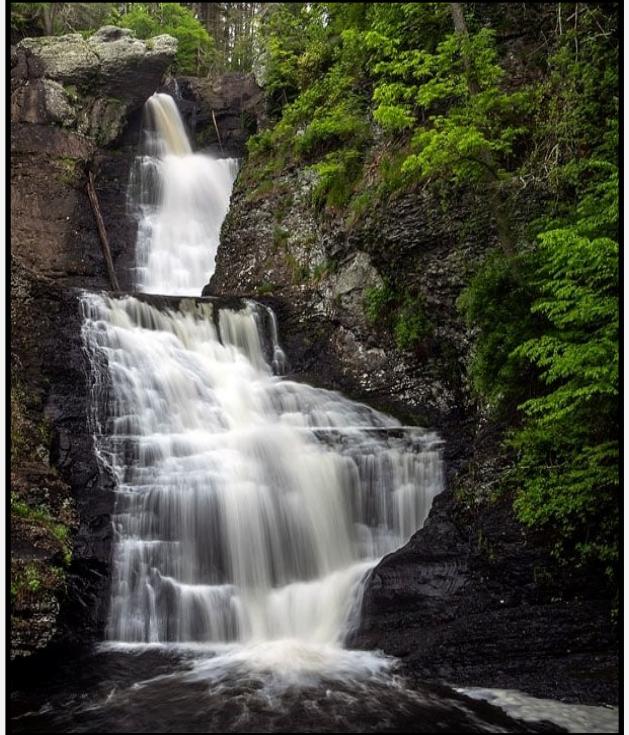
The First Congregational Church of Madison

June 2022

Minister's Reflection

A few years ago, around this time of year, Sarah and I were in eastern Pennsylvania for a retreat. The Delaware Valley was in full bloom. It was a wonderful and refreshing time, after a challenging and often tumultuous year. One afternoon, we took a short walk to see the Raymondskill Falls, near the small town of Milton. We hiked down to the spot where the falls empty into a pool, before its final plunge to the creek below.

I have a great fondness for waterfalls, for the plunging water and the torrent of foam and spray thrown up by watching crashing into rocks. I recall on that particular day, as we watched the water flow down the rocks that waterfalls are kind of an apt metaphor for the life of the church. The fierce energy expelled in falling water is so like the church in some ways. Like the water crashing down, we seek to pour out our energy, our excitement, our faith and commitment in the service of the gospel. Imagine, perhaps, the work of putting together the Christmas Pageant, of channeling wild, exuberant energy into that glorious hour in which we see and hear the story of the Nativity through the voices of our children.



Seeing the water pour down, it struck me that there is a lesson in patience there as well. All that force and power and caution can be seductive. The rocks can seem unchanged, unmoved by the water passing over them. But it's not so, of course. The rocks and boulders *are* moved, are continually moved, and shaped by the course of the water. Each generation of water that passes over the stone leaves its own small mark.

Every generation of the church leaves its own mark. We are never the first 'water' to pass over the rocks and we will not be last. For us, for the church, for life itself, change is constant. Sometimes it comes in our time, it flows out from our passion and our enthusiasm; but more often it proceeds at a pace ancient and deliberate. It comes in God's time. We can foam and fulminate, crash and roar, but the rocks more often respond to gentle pressure, to the constant, durable flow of the water, not to its force.

At the bottom of the Raymondskill Falls, the water spreads out in a small pool. Its energy spent for a moment, it grows stiller and calmer, as if reflecting upon where it has come from before gathering itself again to move back into the current, to find its new direction.

The quiet pool calls to mind the slower pace of summer, the time to collect and renew ourselves. The longer days of summer invite exploration. It is a time for the church to take honest stock of where we have been, and to plan for how best we move forward, how best we follow the current of God's leading.

I wish you all a joyful, restful, restorative summer ... a season of renewal and recreation, a season that re-energizes us all for the new life for which God is always preparing us.

Peace,

Todd



Worship Calendar

Worship In Person

Join us in the sanctuary for worship. Masks are required when entering and walking around, but feel free to remove them if you wish when seated.

Worship Virtually

Worship will be livestreamed on Facebook (www.facebook.com/fccmadison)

Worship on TV or our Website

You may also watch the service on Madison Public Access, and a recording of the service will be available on our website Sunday afternoon. (fccmadison.org)

June 5
10:00 am

Pentecost—wear red!
Confirmation & Youth Sunday

June 12
10:00 am

Trinity Sunday
Rev. Sarah Vetter, preaching
Baptism & Confirmation of Anna Vlieks

June 19
10:00 am

2nd Sunday after Pentecost
Rev. Todd Vetter, preaching
Father's Day

June 26
10:00 am

3rd Sunday after Pentecost
Linda Choser, preaching

Worship will be outside in July & August, weather permitting.



WEAR
RED
for
Pentecost
Sunday, June 5



Youth Sunday Picnic

June 5 after worship

ON THE CHURCH LAWN



Coffee Hour!

Every Sunday after worship, the Fellowship Committee provides coffee, tea, and juice. We rely on your contributions for other refreshments. Items needed are cheese and crackers, sandwiches, cookies, fruit, brownies, coffee cake, dessert bars, vegetables, etc. If you can help, please contact:

cjguerette1@aol.com or

alisonhubley@gmail.com

Thank you for your generosity!



WOULD YOU LIKE TO JOIN FCC? WE'D LOVE TO HAVE YOU!

We will be welcoming New Members to the church in June. If you may be interested in joining, please contact Rev. Sarah Vetter! svetter@fccmadison.org 203-245-2739 x12



June 5th

Confirmation and Youth Sunday! 10 a.m.!

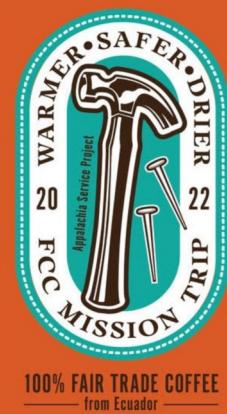
June 12th

Mini Golf. 2-3:30! If you want to join please let Justin know by June 8th!

justinwaynezeigler@gmail.com

June 29th

5-6 Ice Cream at Ashleys. If you're wandering downtown...why not stop by? Justin is buying



Fair Trade Good Karma
Coffee
Support the Mission Trip
\$15/bag

Make checks payable to: FCC Madison with "ASP Mission Trip" in the memo
Pay with credit card on FCC's Website, note "ASP Mission Trip"



Youth are selling fair-trade Good Karma coffee after church at coffee hour to raise money for the Mission Trip.

Ground and whole-bean are available!

We can deliver too!

contact: svetter@fccmadison.org



**SATURDAY
JUNE 18**

YOUTH CAR WASH

Support the Mission Trip!
Bring your car by to get washed and shop at the Lion's Club Flea Market on the Green

**FCC PARKING LOT
9:00 - 12:00**

tech VOLUNTEERS

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. No experience necessary.
We will train you!

If you are interested, please contact Jeremy Clark at abkldr@gmail.com.



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.



KYRIE CONCERT RECAP

On Saturday, May 21st, over 100 people came into the sanctuary to experience *Kyrie: A Musical Vigil for Peace to Benefit Ukraine* with mezzo-soprano Karolina Wojteczko, organist Julian Revie, violinist Yevgenia Strenger and violist Sander Strenger. It was a stunning program featuring many moving pieces including a 15th-century Ukrainian Orthodox chant, a Plainchant arranged by Julian Revie, and other works. Donations to help orphans and refugees in Ukraine were gratefully received and went to the Center of St. Martin in Fastow, Ukraine; the United Ukraine Relief Committee; and the Province of St. Anthony and St. Jakob Strzemie of the Order of Friars Minor Conventual. Remarkably, over \$12,000 were collected—a staggeringly generous amount.



Thanks to all those who helped with this event, especially Susanne Kos who did so much to welcome the performers to the church and make them feel at home. It was an unforgettable evening.

MUSIC SUNDAY: MAY 29th

Every year, at the tail end of May or the beginning of June, we have a “Music Sunday” to celebrate and affirm the musical life of the church. The Spirit Choir will sing the uplifting spiritual *Every Time I Feel the Spirit*, and the Adult Choir will sing—with congregational participation—an arrangement of the familiar hymn *When in Our Music God is Glorified* accompanied by organ, trumpet, trombone, and timpani. Pianist Fred Scholl will also be playing part of a sonata by Baroque composer Domenico Scarlatti. Other special hymns will be presented before the Adult Choir sings *The Lord Bless You and Keep You*, a benediction response by Peter Lutkin. It will be a beautiful service!



SUMMER MUSIC INVITATION

As we transition to having our worship services outdoors for the months of July and August, I'd like to invite anyone who has an interest in singing or playing an instrument to share their gifts for Sunday worship! If you would like to participate musically but don't really know what to do, I would love to help you and work with you. Please contact me at nbayreuther@fccmadison.org, and we can talk about the possibilities!



SAVE THE DATE!

THE WORLD FAMOUS

GLENN MILLER ORCHESTRA



Presented by
Music at the
Meetinghouse

Tickets will go on sale
in August at fccmadison.org

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH of MADISON

OCTOBER
FRIDAY
21

7:00 pm

We need your help!

WILL YOU SPONSOR THE MISSION TRIP?

Donations of any amount make a big difference!

make checks payable to FCC Madison with "mission trip" in memo



Support FCC's Mission Trip!

Youth Service Trip to make
homes warmer, safer & drier.



Help us get to Man, West Virginia!

June 25 - July 2

Thank you!!



First Congregational Church of Madison, CT

Donate with credit card on FCC's website

Note: Mission Trip

or send check payable to FCC Madison
26 Meetinghouse Lane, Madison, CT 06443

Mission Trip News

This year, 37 of us (26 youth and 11 adults) are heading to Man, WV to serve with Appalachia Service Project for a week. We will be working on houses in disrepair, helping to make them warmer, safer, and drier. It's a big endeavor, and we are happily amazed at our growth from last summer, when 9 people went on the trip. Even if you are not able to come on the trip, you can be a part of it, by donating to help make it happen, praying for us and the homeowners we will work with, purchasing coffee at coffee hour from the youth, and offering your encouragement and support. Thank you!

OUTREACH

Call to Care Uganda: Outreach is inviting Martha Hoffmann, the founder of Call to Care Uganda, to give a mission moment this autumn. Martha will explain her mission to provide safe drinking water for rural Ugandans by drilling wells and how this transforms lives.

If you are interested in possibly joining FCC Outreach contact me at susanne.kos1@gmail.com



Visit stmichaelukrainian.org for an updated list of needed supplies or to donate directly to the cause.

FCC is Serving as a Community Donation Spot

to collect much needed medical supplies for war relief efforts in Ukraine. Donations are coordinated with St. Michael's Ukrainian Catholic Church in New Haven.

Drop items off anytime in the bin by the church house double doors.



SUNDAY SCHOOL

Save the Date for Youth Sunday!

June 5, 2022

All youth ages pre-K - college are invited to participate!

Please email Kristen Skonieczny at kmsketch@gmail.com if interested in sharing your voice, music or word.

Looking for High School and College Graduates!

Are you graduating from high school or college this year?

We would like to acknowledge your hard work during our Youth Sunday. Please let Kristen Skonieczny know of your accomplishment at kmsketch@gmail.com.

Vacation Bible School

VBS will be held at FCC from June 27- July 1 in conjunction with St. Andrews. For more information, please visit <https://st-andrew-s--fcc.myokesburyvbs.com/>



A long-awaited celebration for David and family, who have received asylum from the Democratic Republic of the Congo! Attorneys from the UConn School of Law were outstanding. Thank you to the hardworking team from FCC who have helped the Ngetas with housing, education, employment, medical care, health insurance, transportation, and support for over 2 years.



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

June 2022

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.

Main office
@fccmadison.org

Sunday Worship
10:00 a.m.

Join our livestream worship on [Facebook.com/fccmadison](https://www.facebook.com/fccmadison)
Or watch it later in the day from our website: fccmadison.org

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



The Rev. Todd C. Vetter
Senior Minister

The Rev. Sarah E. Vetter
Minister of Community Life

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.

