

The Meetinghouse News

The First Congregational Church of Madison

January 2022

Depending on which date you choose to hang your claim on, the First Congregational Church of Madison was founded in either 1703 or 1707. That puts 70 or so years older than the country.

This makes us part of the second or third generation of churches in New England. All of which is to say that we come from an old and venerable tradition; one that dates from the English Reformation of the late 16th and 17th centuries.

Historically, we are the descendants of the Puritans, that sometimes radical and often misunderstood group of English Reformers who first settled New England in the years following the great Puritan migration of the 1630's. Throughout the history of our tradition, we have held to the understanding the church is not a building, never reduced to the confines of physical space; but rather a gathering of people in the presence of the Word, the Bible, to worship God.

Thus, the designation Meeting House to describe the building in which we gather. The church is the people, the Meeting House the space in which the congregation creates a time set aside for worship alone.

Over the past couple of years, we have discussed ways in which we can more clearly establish boundaries for sacred time, our hour of worship. In January, we will be trying out one way to create a more manifest sense of worship as a sacred time set aside from common time.

So beginning with Epiphany Sunday on January 9, people in worship will see something a little new, as a member of the congregation will open 'worship' by carrying a Bible into the sanctuary and up to the pulpit. This will be followed by a brief call to worship. At the close of worship, following the Benediction, the Bible will be carried, returning the space to common use.

The hope, of course, is to help us see the hour in which we gather as sacred time, as Sabbath, when we set aside the cares and worries of our larger life, to give a little space to the worship of God and to allow us a greater access to the peace that comes from giving ourselves to God.

Peace, Todd

CAN YOU HELP OUR ASYLEES FROM THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO?

Do you have a car you no longer use? It would come in very handy for the Ngetas, the family our church has sponsored on their asylum-seeking journey from the DRC. David now works full-time at Walmart in Guilford and also takes English classes in Branford; however, he must take the bus, which makes a 15 minute drive take an hour. In addition, the bus does not run on Sundays, so David rides his bike to work, which will become increasingly difficult (and dangerous) when it snows. In addition, we are looking for a sturdy table at least 70 inches long for the Ngetas. If you can help with either of these items, please contact alisonhubley@gmail.com or Rev. Todd Vetter.

CALL TO ANNUAL MEETING – January 23, 2022

To the active members of the First Congregational Church of Madison, Connecticut, UCC.

Pursuant to the by-laws of the Church:

The Annual Budget Meeting of the First Congregational Church of Madison, will be held on Sunday, January 23, 2022, in the Meetinghouse immediately following the Church Service, to:

1. Receive and act upon the Operating and Capital Budget for 2022.
2. Receive and act upon the Board's recommendation to begin renovation work in the Church House pursuant to the plans submitted by the Renovation Committee. This follows the resolution passed by the Annual Meeting in January 2019, that proceeds from the sale of the Bradley Road parsonage be used to renovate the Bower Church House for better community utilization.

Attest: Donna Larkin, Clerk of the Church

Dated: December 24, 2021

Worship Calendar



Worship In Person

Join us in the sanctuary for worship. Masks are required and windows are open, so please dress comfortably.

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)

January 2 **2nd Sunday after Christmas**
10:00 am *Rev. Todd Vetter, preaching*

January 9 **Celebration of Epiphany**
10:00 am *Rev. Sarah Vetter, preaching*

January 16 **2nd Sunday after Epiphany**
10:00 am *Rev. Todd Vetter, preaching*

January 23 **3rd Sunday after Epiphany**
10:00 am *Rev. Sarah Vetter, preaching*

January 30 **4th Sunday after Epiphany**
10:00 am *Rev. Todd Vetter, preaching*

A NOTE FROM THE BOARD

The FCC Board met on December 7th. We approved the dates of Rev. Todd Vetter's sabbatical leave from March 28 - May 8, 2022. We chose Sunday, January 23rd as the date of the annual meeting during which we will vote on the church budget, renovation proposal, and a revised Open and Affirming statement. We voted to request donations for a Christmas gift for all staff members to thank them for their extraordinary work this year during COVID times.

The Appalachian Service Project mission trip will take place in June/July 2022. Afghan refugee resettlement was discussed as well as how our church could be an institutional hub. We thanked Rev. Sarah Vetter for her leadership in the Soaring Stewardship program as well as new members. There will be a fundraiser for our church to be held in conjunction with a Lions Club event on the green on June 18, 2022 as we will run the concession booth.

Respectfully submitted,

Alison Hubley, Board Moderator

Sunday School

Sunday School is moving back to the classrooms in the Undercroft! **Beginning in January, all classes and the nursery will once again be held in the Sunday School rooms and Nursery under the Meeting House.** All children will start the service with their families in the Meeting House and then travel down to Sunday School after the Passing of the Peace. Any families who would like their pre-school aged children to go immediately downstairs can stay in the nursery until the older children and teachers come down.

Youth Group!

Jan 2nd - No Youth Group or Confirmation

Jan 9th- Confirmation 5:30-7 p.m.

Jan 16th - High School Parlor Time from 10 a.m.-11 a.m.

Youth Group 1-4 "IT" indoor Rope Course in New Haven. RSVPs need to be in by Jan 9th.

Jan 23rd - High School Parlor Time for 10 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Youth Group 5:30-7 p.m.

SOUP & BINGO!

All adults and children are invited to **SOUP & BINGO** on **Saturday, January 15th** at 5:00 p.m. in Hubley Hall! The Fellowship Commission will provide home-made soups. This is a fun intergenerational event for all ages of children and adults! Bingo cards are \$3 each or 4/\$10. Please bring coins, M & Ms, buttons etc. to mark your card(s). Those attending are asked to bring a dessert or soup to share. Sign up on the Fellowship bulletin board in Hubley Hall or email adamhubley@aol.com **All adults attending must be fully vaccinated for COVID.**



Offering -We are grateful for your pledges and offerings. There are a number of ways to give. Donations can be made via

text, app, through our website, or by mailing a check to FCC Madison at 26 Meetinghouse Lane, Madison, CT 06443.



GivePlus Text: Text **833-394-8043**, with the amount you want to donate, to make one-time or recurring contributions.



Mobile App Giving: Search your app store for "GivePlus Church" and download the GivePlus app to make one-time or recurring contributions.



Online Giving: Visit <https://fccmadison.org/> or scan the QR Code with your smart phone camera to set up a one time or recurring gift.

IS YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION CURRENT?



In an effort to communicate with our members most efficiently, we ask that you take a few moments to ensure that we have all of your correct information on file. If you have moved, changed your email and/or phone number within the last year; would you be kind enough to forward that information to our church office at

mainoffice@fccmadison.org.

Your present updated information will help us maintain a current records status.

If you do not have any changes, you may disregard this message.

Thank you for your cooperation.



Please do not hesitate to reach out to Todd, Sarah or Justin if you need support, prayer, to be connected to resources, a listening ear, or any other way we might help.

We are here for you!

Todd (203)589-7949 tcvetter@gmail.com

Sarah (203)887-2463 svetter@fccmadison.org

Justin justinwaynezeigler@gmail.com



Join us for a program on
Christian Mindfulness

led by Sarah Seehusen and Sarah Vetter
Wednesdays, January 19 - February 9
7-8:30 pm

Come connect with each other and explore the practice of Mindfulness and how we can grow in awareness of God's presence with us in every moment

Connection is for *all* moms (stepmoms, empty nesters, those with mothering hearts, etc.) . We gather for candid conversations, advice, laughter, and prayer as we strive to navigate our daily lives in more a more meaningful way. All women are welcome. Contact svetter@fccmadison.org for more info.

There's Still Time to Pledge Your Support to FCC Madison

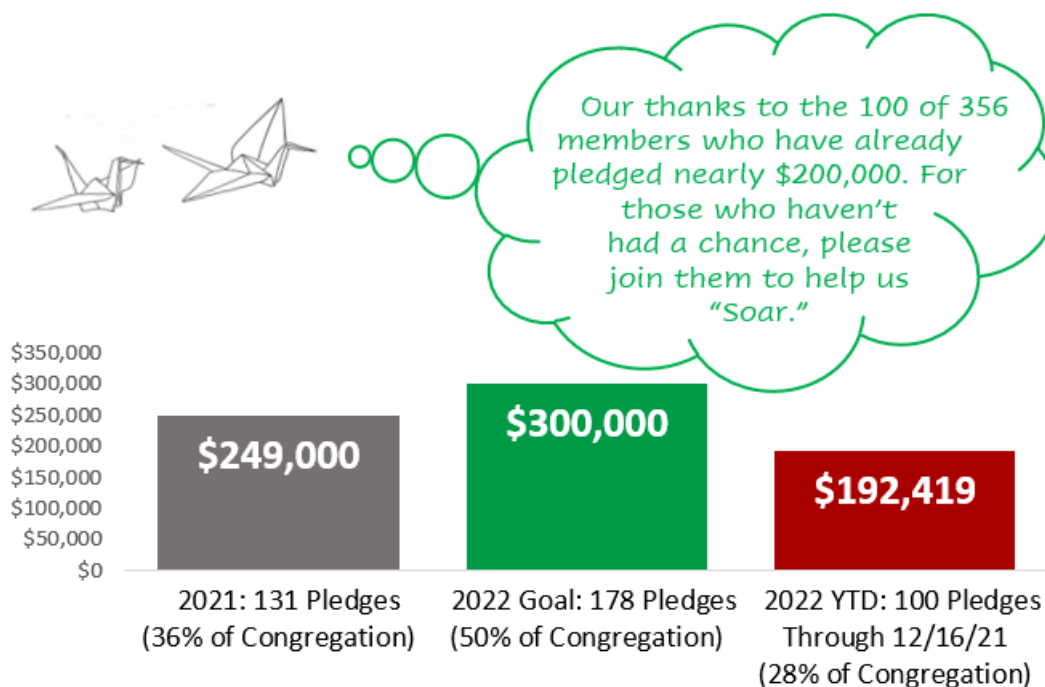


Your Pledge will help us "Soar with the Spirit" in 2022

What does your pledge do for FCC Madison? Your pledge helps us plan responsibly with a budget for the coming year. This budget supports everything we stand for and everything we do; from our church activities—worship, outreach, lay caring, fellowship, mission trips—to staffing, administration and property maintenance.

How much should you pledge in 2022? No matter how large or small, each and every pledge makes a difference and works toward the building of our faith community and its mission. Whatever you can pledge should be a responsible commitment, based on your individual financial circumstances.

How do you fulfill your pledge? You don't need to fulfill your pledge when you make your pledge; rather, the pledge card you submit presents your donation promise in calendar year 2022, which can be divided among as many payments as you wish from January 1 through December 31. Payments can be made by check or submitted online by credit card at www.FCCMadison.org. Alternatively, you can make a gift of stock or other liquid securities, or you can give through a donor advised fund.



Please make your pledge by January 14

Our Annual Meeting to vote on the 2022 Budget is January 23



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 8:00 pm Christmas Eve service is welcome to start attending Thursday evening rehearsals in Hubley Hall from 7:00-8:30 pm. **Any interested singers are requested to start attending no later than Thursday, December 2nd.**

The pieces the Adult Choir will be singing are absolutely beautiful and very moving. *In the Silence, Wondrous Love* by Ruth Elaine Schram incorporates the familiar Advent hymn *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence* as well as *What Wondrous Love Is This*, a hymn typically associated with Lent but cleverly and appropriately woven into this superb anthem. *Watchman, Tell Us of the Night* by Alan Hovhanness is an intricate, four-part anthem with a fantastic bass solo which will be sung by Peter Hawkins. *God With Us* by Matthew Gawronski was written in 2018 and is pretty radical departure from what the Adult Choir typically sings. The three-part, close harmonies are truly stunning and magnificently set to the text. "...But the darkness has not understood that the Light would shine into the darkest parts of me. Emmanuel, God with us!"

These are just a few of the great pieces the Adult Choir will be learning and singing throughout Advent and on Christmas Eve. We hope you will join us—please get in touch with me beforehand so I can prepare music for you. Thank you!



CHRISTMAS EVE!

JANUARY HANDBELL ROTATION

Although the schedule and ringers are set for Christmas Eve, here's the schedule for the beginning of January, 2022:

- **Thursday, Jan. 6th, 6:00-6:45 pm:** rehearsal
- **Thursday, Jan. 13th, 6:00-6:45 pm:** rehearsal
- **Thursday, Jan. 20th, 6:00-6:45 pm:** rehearsal
- **Thursday, Jan. 27th, 6:00-6:45 pm:** rehearsal
- **Sunday, Jan. 30th, 9:30 am:** warm up for service

Please let me know 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. Also, it helps if you have a sense of rhythm, you can count to four, you know your right from your left, and you have a good sense of humor. If you have all of these qualifications, you will fit right in—and I suspect you probably do! Don't be afraid to try it—we have a blast, and there is absolutely no experience necessary. Just let me know so I can prepare music for you. Thanks, and I hope you'll consider playing!





Many thanks to all who shopped and donated Christmas presents for our neighbors at Christian Community Action! We collected gifts for 16 families - 38 people! Thank you Tiffany Sweet for coordinating again this year!



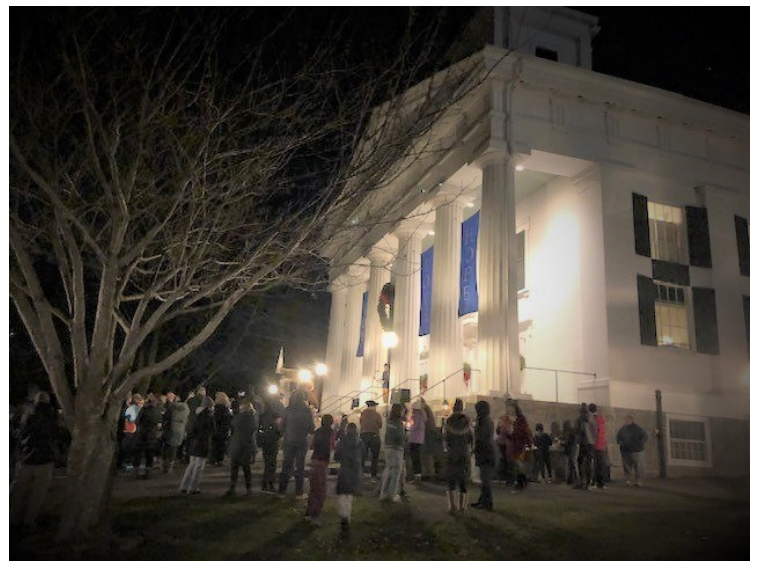
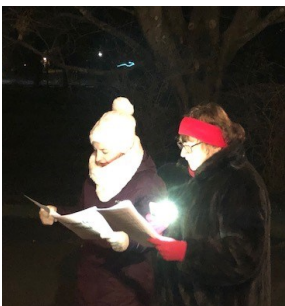
Christmas Pageant

What a wonderful, moving, sweet, funny pageant the children and youth led this year. Thank you to Kristen Skonieczny and Nathan Bayreuther for directing! And thank you to all the families who participated!



It was a beautiful night **Christmas Caroling** in front of the church. Over 100 people gathered to spread the Christmas cheer.

Thank you Lianne LaTorre for organizing! Thank you Fellowship Team for the hot chocolate!





Men's Bible Study

Join us for fellowship and study (sometimes the bible, sometimes something else) on Tuesday mornings at 8:00am, in the Church Parlor (in the church house next to the Meetinghouse).

No experience is necessary;
and ***coffee is provided.***

We hope you'll be able to join us; and if you have any questions, please contact Rev. Todd Vetter at tcvetter@gmail.com

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 abkrdr@gmail.com.

Liturgists

Would you like to participate in worship by reading scripture? We'd love to hear your voice sharing the Good News. Contact Rev. Todd at tcvetter@gmail.com to sign up.



Food Donations for CCA

We have an ongoing collection of non-perishable food for Christian Community Action's food pantry.

Remember to bring a donation with you to worship on Sunday mornings. There are baskets by the doors to collect food.

Thank you!



The First Congregational Church of Madison

26 Meetinghouse Lane, Madison, CT 06443
Overlooking the Green

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

Change
Service
Requested

The Meetinghouse News January 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.

Mainoffice
@fccmadison.org

Sunday Worship

10:00 a.m.

Join our livestream worship on 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
Church Office Hours:
9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Monday - Friday



GO.BE.LOVE.

