

# United Churches of Durham Middlefield Federated Church

May 17, 2026



**THE UNITED CHURCHES OF DURHAM and MIDDLEFIELD FEDERATED CHURCH**

228 Main St, Durham CT 06422, (860) 349-3683

**Email:** [office@unitedchurches.net](mailto:office@unitedchurches.net), [church.mfc@gmail.com](mailto:church.mfc@gmail.com)

**Website:** [www.unitedchurches.net](http://www.unitedchurches.net); [www.mfcct.org](http://www.mfcct.org)

**Pastor:** Rev. Eva Cudmore, (860) 227-0722

**Minister of Music:** Mike Meurs

**Assoc. Min. of Music:** Jenny-Joy Moore

**Administrator:** Aren Alberico

**Worship Service**  
**May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2026**  
Seventh Sunday of Easter

**GATHERING**

**WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

This is the day the Lord has made  
**Let us rejoice and be glad in it!**

**PRELUDE**

"Majesty"

J. Hayford

**\* CALL TO CELEBRATION**

Despite the world's chaos,  
**love is the root of all.**

Over and beneath men who fight for power and influence,  
**love is the greatest power.**

Though death looms and evil prowls,  
**Christ, risen from the dead, is in every time and place.**  
**God, the God of love, is with us.**  
**We worship in gratitude and joy.**

**\* GATHERING HYMN**

Fairest Lord Jesus

# 189

**\* PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

Loving God, Creator of all things, you have raised Christ to rule at the heart of the human story, present in all beings, through the Spirit of love to bless us, keep us and lead us in your ways. May your Word may be made flesh again in Scripture, in our worship, and in all our lives and in our living. Open our hearts, God, and speak to us. Amen.

**\* PASSING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of the Lord be with you. **And also with you.**  
*(We exchange greetings of peace)*

## THE WORD

### YOUNG AT HEART MESSAGE

### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*Please stand in your pew and give your prayer appeal. We end the appeal with the following call and response:*

*This is my prayer. **This is our prayer.***

### MORNING PRAYER and THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our God/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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. 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 OF THE WEEK

**There Is a Balm in Gilead**  
*(Req. by Anne Malcolm)*

**# 375**

### SCRIPTURE READING

NT: Philippians 2:1-13

pg. 954

### SERMON

"From the Heart"  
John 17:1-11

pg. 879

## RESPONSE

### \* HYMN OF RESPONSE

**Take My Life and Let it Be**

**# 399**

### OFFERING

*If not using a check, please use the envelopes in the pew to designate your gift to MFC. Offerings to UCD can also be given online or by texting GIVE to 860-631-4572 to use the Tithely App. Thank You.*

**Offertory Anthem**

*Lord of the Dance*

**\* Response: Praise God from whom all blessings flow,  
Praise God all creatures here below.  
Praise God for all that love has done;  
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One. Amen**

**\* PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**God, you are the giver of all good and perfect gifts. We ask you to bless this offering and those who give it. May it change lives by the ministry of this church and may the hearts of the givers be forever changed through the act of generosity and stewardship. In your son's name we pray, Amen.**

**GOING FORTH**

**\* SENDING HYMN**

**Forth in Thy Name, O Lord**

**# 438**

**\* BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**

**"Be Still My Soul"**

**C. Berry**

\*\*\*\*\*

*\* Indicates standing as you are able*

**Today's Worship Participants**

Pastor ..... Rev. Eva Cudmore  
Liturgist ..... Fred Wintsch  
Minister of Music ..... Mike Meurs  
Asst. Min. of Music ..... Jenny-Joy Moore  
The MFC/UCD Choir  
Words for worship: Steve Garnaas-Holmes, *Unfolding Light*

**Following Worship,** Join us after worship today for a special **All Church Birthday Celebration!** Thanks to the generosity of our members, a variety of cakes will be shared, and together we'll sing "Happy Birthday" to everyone. As part of the celebration, you are invited to make a donation that reflects your age—whether that's 9 pennies, 9 dimes, 9 dollars, or any amount that feels meaningful to you!

## Upcoming Worship Schedule

Unless otherwise noted, Worship is held at 10am at UCD.

All are welcome to attend!

<u>Date</u>	<u>Coffee Hour</u>	<u>Additional Notes</u>
<b>May 24</b>	UCD Missions	<b>Pentecost Sunday</b>
<b>May 31</b>	UCD Deacons	<b>Trinity Sunday</b> , Believers Baptism
<b>June 7</b>	UCD Trustees	<b>Communion</b>
<b>June 14</b>	UCD WSCS	Flag Day

---

### 2026 Alan and Craig Chiarappa Scholarship

The scholarship is open to anyone who is furthering their skills with continued education, and who have contributed to the work and values of MFC and UCD. The **Deadline** for the applications is **May 31<sup>st</sup>**. You can find the applications at <https://tinyurl.com/MFCscholarship2026> or by scanning the LinkTree QR Code on the back of this insert. The recipient will be awarded in June during worship. The scholarship was established in memory of Alan and Craig Chiarappa, sons of Elmer and Angela Chiarappa. It is sustained through generous donations from church members, family, and friends.

---

### Newsletter Update

Our new, streamlined e-newsletter has launched, with weekly distribution on Friday afternoons. **If you have not already done so, please make sure to add [office@unitedchurches.net](mailto:office@unitedchurches.net) to your address book to ensure our messages arrive safely in your inbox and you stay in the loop.**

- **Weekly Newsletter Deadline:** Wednesdays @ Noon
- **Monthly Newsletter Deadline:** May 27

## Church Census: Extended Deadline



One of our major goals for the year is to compile an up-to-date database. **To help us accomplish this, we ask that every household fill out our Google Form (follow the link below)**

(<https://tinyurl.com/ucdcensus>) by **May 31!** You may also follow the link in the weekly e-news or follow the link in our LinkTree QR Code! Though we prefer if you fill out the form digitally, limited physical copies may also be found in the Narthex. We hope to hear from you!

---

## WSCS Meeting May 31

There will be a meeting of the WSCS after Sunday service on May 31. More information to come!

---

## Amazing Grace: Support Our Shelves

Our commitment to SOS (Support Our Shelves) at Amazing Grace Food Pantry is 75 pounds of Baked Beans per month. Beans should be 15-16 OUNCE ONLY and may be left in designated totes in either of 2 areas at UCD--Fellowship Hall or the church narthex OR contact Sydney Mintz for other options. **NO OUTDATED OR DENTED CANS!** Your continued support of this mission is very appreciated. For other ways to give, please see our weekly e-newsletter or our monthly Crossroads Connection!

---

## Looking for Ushers

We are putting together a list of ushers from both UCD and MFC. If you were not previously part of the list and would like to serve in the rotation, please see Derek Cummings, Rick and Robin Ryan, or contact the church office. The more the merrier!