Middlefield Federated Church
United Churches of Durham
September 13, 2026

"Forgiveness is not always easy. At times, it feels more painful than the wound we suffered, to forgive the one that inflicted it. And yet, there is no peace without forgiveness."
"… Unforgiveness is like drinking poison yourself and waiting for the other person to die"
Marianne Williamson, Author

THE UNITED CHURCHES OF DURHAM and **MIDDLEFIELD FEDERATED CHURCH**
228 Main St, Durham CT 06422 (860) 349-3683
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Website: www.unitedchurch es.net; 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

September 13, 2026, 10 AM

16th Sunday a. Pentecost

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.W. Hayford*

*** CALL TO WORSHIP**

Creator God, you alone give us life!
We praise you. We thank you. We worship you.
Crucified and risen Christ, you show us the way of life.
We hear you. We love you. We follow you.
Holy Spirit, you fill us with life, and call us to honor life.
We receive you. We breathe you. We bear you into the world.
Teach us your ways. Change our hearts. Re-create us again.
Alleluia! Come, Spirit of life, and transform us by your grace.
Alleluia!

*** GATHERING HYMN Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven # 66**

PRAYER OF INVOCATION:

God of mercy, we are held in bondage to our resentments and judgments. We are burdened by our wounds and fears. Speak to us, call us to you, and lead us through the sea of our hurts to freedom in you. God of love, we are hungry for your Word. We open our hearts to hear. In your mercy, 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)

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

THE WORD

SCRIPTURE READINGS

EP:	Romans 14:1-12	Pg. 923-4

SERMON "Settling the Score"

Gospel:	Matthew 18:21-35	Pg. 800

RESPONSE

*** HYMN OF RESPONSE** **Freely, Freely** **#389**

OFFERING

Invitation to the 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 *"Exultate Deo – Rejoice"*

Response: ***O Bless the gifts our hands have brought,***
And bless the work our hearts have planned.
Ours is the faith, the will, the thought;
The rest, O God, is in Your hand.

*** Prayer of Dedication**

God of new beginnings, we seek to do everything in the name of Jesus. We desire to live in compassion, kindness, humility, meekness and patience. As we place this offering upon your table, we believe that we are moving closer to this desire. Help us live with your peace ruling our hearts. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

WE GO FORTH

*** SENDING HYMN** **Go Forth for God** **# 670**

*** SENDING AND BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE *"Adagio"* *J.J. Moore*

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** Indicates standing as you are able*

Today's Worship Participants

Pastor …….. Rev. Eva Cudmore
Liturgist ……. Bridget Melien
Minister of Music ……. Mike Meurs
Assoc. Min. of Music ……..……..……. Jenny-Joy Moore
Words for worship: Steve Garnaas-Holmes, Unfolding Light

Following Worship, *please stay for a time of fellowship and refreshments provided in the Fellowship Hall across the parking lot, courtesy of UCD Deacons.*

Upcoming Worship Schedule

All are welcome to attend our 10am Worship!

Date	Coffee Hour	Additional Notes
9/20	UCD WSCS	
9/27	**N/A**	**NO SERVICE THIS WEEK**
10/4	UCD Trustees	Communion, Confirmation Informational Meeting
10/11	MFC	

Annual Durham Fair, September 24–27

The Annual Durham Fair is quickly approaching, and we are still looking for volunteers to help staff our famous **Lime Rickey** booth, as well as to assist with the **parking lot** operations throughout the fair. The links for both sign-up sheets can be found by scanning our Link Tree QR Code on this very page, or by visiting it on the web at (https://linktr.ee/unitedchurches). We will also be participating in the **Celebrate America Parade on Thursday, September 24 at 7:00 PM**. Everyone who signs up to help will receive a **free ticket to the Durham Fair** as a thank-you.

Want to help in another way? We can always use an extra hand! Whether you would like to help with the parade, clean and prepare the Lime Rickey Booth, or assist with something else behind the scenes, please contact **Derek Cummings or John Hogarth** as soon as possible!

Add Your Voice…Come Sing with Us!

Have you ever thought about joining the church choir? We'd love to have you! Whether you're an experienced singer or simply enjoy making music, our choir is a wonderful way to worship, build friendships, and enrich our church services through song.

We rehearse most **Thursday evenings from 7:00–8:00 PM**, from **September through June**. For more info, please contact Mike at mevis0130@gmail.com or simply join us at a rehearsal starting this month!

October Confirmation Program – Sign Up Now!

Beginning in October, we will offer a confirmation program for all high school students starting 8th grade this year. We will meet **every other Sunday** from **4PM-6PM** and will conclude the Sunday after Easter, April 4th.

An informational meeting for both students and parents will be held **October 4th** after worship, or possibly later if preferred. Please contact Pastor Eva or the church office if you would like more information. We are also looking for volunteers to assist with the program!

HELO Contra Dance, 9/19, 6:00pm

Our friends at HELO invite you to a night of traditional contra dancing at the Bay Point Club in East Hampton to benefit their ongoing mission in Southern Haiti. Tickets are $40 per person and $75 per couple (price includes food and drinks). To purchase tickets, visit the link below: https://helohaiti.networkforgood.com/