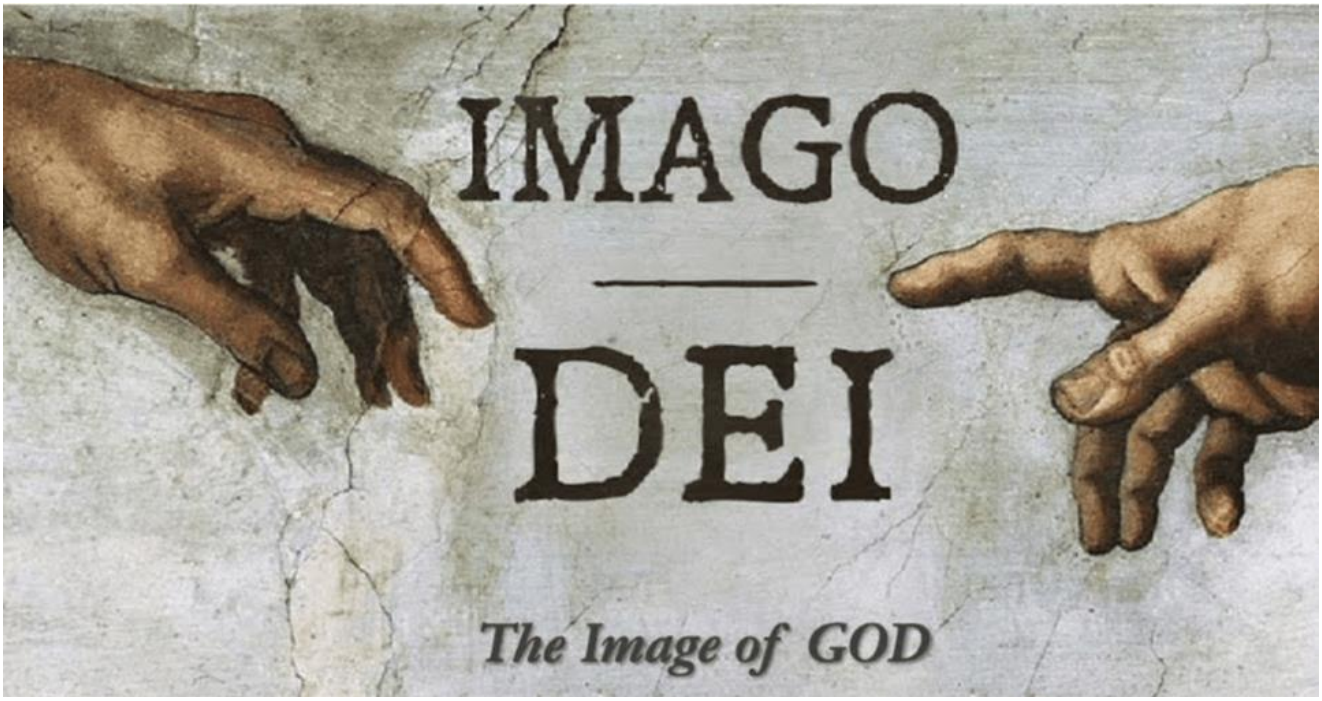
Middlefield Federated Church
United Churches of Durham
October 18, 2026



"Every human life is a reflection of divinity, and... every act of injustice mars and defaces the image of God in man."
Martin Luther King, The Measure of a Man, 1959

THE UNITED CHURCHES OF DURHAM and **MIDDLEFIELD FEDERATED CHURCH**
228 Main St, Durham CT 06422 (860) 349-3683
Email: office@unitedchurches.net, church.mfc@gmail.com
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

October 18, 2026, 10 AM

21st 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 *"Fairest Lord Jesus, Ruler of All Nature"* *D. Wood*

*** CALL TO WORSHIP**

Creating God, as the trees praise you with their multitude of colors, the goodness of your Holy Spirit in us shows forth your glory.
Transform us that we may glow with the beauty of your love.
Be present in us, that we may be present for one another.
Alleluia! Come, Holy Spirit, and transform us by your grace. Alleluia!

*** GATHERING HYMN I Sing the Almighty Power of God # 152**

PRAYER OF INVOCATION:

God of love, eternal creator, you have made us in your image. We are the evidence of your love. Speak your Word to us, and through us. Shape us in your image, set your seal upon us, that we may be all you have created us to be. We pray in the company of Christ and the power of your Holy Spirit. 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:	Acts 10:34-43	Pg. 895

SERMON "Two Kingdoms"

Gospel:	Matthew 22:15-22	Pg. 803-4

RESPONSE

Reflective Moment

- In your daily life, how do you balance your responsibilities to your earthly country (paying taxes, obeying laws, civic duties) with your higher allegiance to the Kingdom of God?

- The coin bore Caesar's image, so it belonged to Caesar. Humans bear God's image (the Imago Dei). What does it mean for your daily life to realize that you bear God's imprint and therefore belong entirely to Him?

*** HYMN OF RESPONSE** **Breathe on Me, Breath of God** **# 420**

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 *"Soli Deo Gloria"* *M. Praetorius*

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**
Living and true God, we return to you the very things that are were never ours to keep – our time, our skills, our possessions, ourselves. Bless us and these your gifts! Move us to works of faith and labors of love for the good of all people and the wholeness of all creations. Amen.

WE GO FORTH

*** SENDING HYMN** **O Word of God, Incarnate** **# 598**

*** SENDING AND BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE *"God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens" W. Held*

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** Indicates standing as you are able*

Today's Worship Participants
Pastor ……..... Rev. Eva Cudmore
Liturgist ……..... Tracy Olsen
Minister of Music …….. Mike Meurs
Organist ……...……...…….. Carol Westcote
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 Missions.*

Upcoming Worship Schedule

All are welcome to attend our weekly Sunday worship!
All services are at 10am unless otherwise specified.

Date	Coffee Hour	Additional Notes
10/25	UCD Deacons	WSCS Meeting, Fairchild House
11/1	UCD Trustees	**All Saints Sunday**, Communion,
11/8	MFC	
11/15	WSCS	**Consecration Sunday, MFC All-Church Meeting**

Red Cross Blood Drive, October 22, 1-6pm

As a reminder, we are hosting a Red Cross Blood Drive at the Fellowship Hall this **Thursday**, **October 22**, from **1:00 PM** to **6:00 PM**. The Red Cross encourages donors to schedule an appointment in advance through their website below: (https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/find-drive). Simply visit the link, enter our code (Durham CT) or our ZIP (06422), and scroll down for a list of available time blocks.

WSCS Meeting: October 25, 11am

WSCS will be meeting following our Sunday service to discuss and plan their upcoming events, such as the annual Ham and Bean Supper on Friday, November 13 and the Bluegrass Coffee House on Saturday, December 5.

2026 Stewardship Drive

Our annual Stewardship Drive is underway! This year, both UCD and MFC will be handing out Stewardship Letters after this morning's worship to help save on postage. Any unclaimed letters will be mailed on Wednesday, so please pick yours up Sunday if you can!

Middletown Community Thanksgiving Project

This yearly project assures that families are able to provide a Thanksgiving meal. The plan is to supply 1300 families with a complete Thanksgiving dinner. MFC and UCD will do our part by supplying **150 (or more) cans of yams/sweet potatoes (<u>40oz only</u>)**.

Totes will be located in Fellowship Hall and outside the Fairchild House. The need is urgent, so please deliver to UCD no later than **Sunday**, **November 15th**.

Unable to shop? We can shop for you! Monetary donations are also accepted. Make checks payable to: Middletown Community Thanksgiving Project.

<u>THE NEED THIS YEAR IS VERY GREAT</u>, so please consider helping out if you are able!

Fall Tag Sale: November 7, 8am-1pm

UCD Missions invites you to our Annual Fall Sale on **Saturday**, **November 7**, 2026, from **8:00 AM** to **1:00 PM**! Come browse a wide variety of items, discover great deals, and enjoy a lively morning of community connection. Interested in selling? Individual **spots** are available for just **$20** if you are looking for an easy and fun way to clear out gently used items or share your crafts with others. Please note that there are **no early birds,** so plan to arrive right at opening!

<u>Item Drop Off:</u>
You may drop off items at Fellowship Hall that week on **Wednesday November 4**, **Thursday November 5**, and **Friday November 6** from **2:00 PM** to **6:00 PM**. For more information or assistance, call **Pam Hogarth** at **860-490-7624**. We look forward to seeing you there!