



# The Crossroads Connection

Volume 1, January 2026  
Office: (860) 349-3683

## January at a Glance

**Sunday, January 4<sup>th</sup>**

Communion Service

**Time:** 10am

**Loc:** Sanctuary

**Sunday, January 11<sup>th</sup>**

Worship Service

**Time:** 10am

**Loc:** Sanctuary

**Sunday January 18<sup>th</sup>**

MFC Annual Meeting

**Time:** 11:30am

**Loc:** Fellowship Hall

**Sunday January 18<sup>th</sup>**

Worship Service

**Time:** 10am

**Loc:** Sanctuary

**Sunday, January 25<sup>th</sup>**

Worship Service

**Time:** 10am

**Loc:** Sanctuary

**Sunday January 25<sup>th</sup>**

UCD Annual Meeting

**Time:** 11:30am

**Loc:** Fellowship Hall

For more upcoming events and service details, visit our website:



## From the Pastor

Since the beginning of human evolution, we humans have been committed to the marking of time. As agrarian culture developed, of course it was necessary to know not only that the seasons change, but how, and when, so that crops could be planted at the optimal time, and harvested at their time of fullness.

Over the centuries many cultures developed not only marking of the seasons but of years, months and days as well, and ascribed special notice -or none- to the changing of the year. This year's change from 2024 to 2025 finds members of my extended family in different parts of the world where there has been little care for the "counting down" and little additional celebration of any kind to mark the change of the year. The world turns as it always has and the marking of another year bears little impact. No fireworks or confetti, no 'year in review', no dropping of the ball, no "Auld Lang Syne", no resolutions, and no anxiety. At least not over a certain semi- magical date. They both reflected it was very relaxing to go to bed that evening much like they would any other night.

Now, to reminisce of the past and to hope in the future with the resolve to do better are all very good things to do.

But since we in the western culture ascribe so much to the changes of the calendar year: budgets, reports, schedules, political changes, etc., January often begins with measures of both hope and despair. With despair and worry often tipping the scale. But the truth is that God gives us new chances for a fresh start, day after day.

So with that in mind, I offer this little gem of scripture:

But this I call to mind,  
and therefore I have hope:  
The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases,  
his mercies never come to an end;  
they are new every morning; (my emphasis)  
great is your faithfulness.  
"The Lord is my portion," says my soul,  
"therefore I will hope in him."  
The Lord is good to those who wait for him,  
to the soul that seeks him.

Lamentations 3:21-28

Continued...

*Continued...*

These words of encouragement proclaim to us that regardless of the circumstances we find ourselves in, each day holds the promise of God's steadfast love, mercies, and faithfulness, and each day is a journey of trust, hope, and compassion.

The 16<sup>th</sup> century German reformer Martin Luther reflected:

"This life is not godliness, but growth in godliness; not health, but healing; not being, but becoming; not rest, but exercise. We are not now what we shall be, but we are on the way; the process is not yet finished, but it has begun; this is not the goal, but it is road; at present all does not gleam and glitter, but everything is being purified."

Happy New Year, and may the year ahead be one marked by God's presence in our lives, growing us ever more into his image and forming us to be the people he has created us to be.

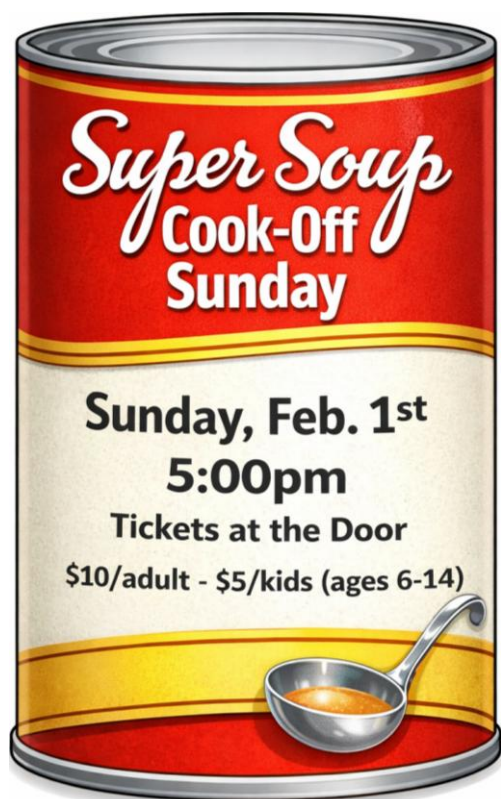
Pastor Eva

## Worship for January

<b>January 4<sup>th</sup></b> <b>Communion</b> 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sun. after Christmas	<b>January 11<sup>th</sup></b> <b>Baptism of the Lord</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> Sun. after Epiphany	<b>January 18<sup>th</sup></b>  2 <sup>nd</sup> Sun. after Epiphany	<b>January 25<sup>th</sup></b> <b>UCD Ann. Meeting</b> 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sun. after Epiphany
<b>OT:</b> Jer. 31:7-14 <b>NT:</b> Eph. 1:3-14 <b>Gospel:</b> John 1:(1-9)10-18	<b>OT:</b> Isa. 42:1-9 <b>NT:</b> Acts 10:34-43 <b>Gospel:</b> Matt 3:13-17	<b>OT:</b> Isa. 49:1-7 <b>NT:</b> 1 Cor. 1:1-9 <b>Gospel:</b> John 1:29-42	<b>OT:</b> Isa. 9:1-4 <b>NT:</b> 1 Cor 1:10-18 <b>Gospel:</b> Matt 4:12-23
<b>Ushers/DOD</b> Stacy Prifitera	<b>Ushers/DOD</b> Flint McLellan Tracy Olson	<b>Ushers/DOD</b> TBD	<b>Ushers/DOD</b> Linda Schulz
<b>Liturgist</b> Tracy Olson	<b>Liturgist</b> John Biddiscombe	<b>Liturgist</b> Carol Francis	<b>Liturgist</b> TBD
<b>Coffee Hour</b> UCD Missions	<b>Coffee Hour</b> UCD Deacons	<b>Coffee Hour</b> UCD Choir	<b>Coffee Hour</b> UCD Trustees
<b>Worship Leader</b> Pastor Eva	<b>Worship Leader</b> Pastor Eva	<b>Worship Leader</b> Pastor Eva	<b>Worship Leader</b> Pastor Eva

**Welcome to our refreshed newsletter, The Crossroads Connection! While we're still smoothing out a few details, we're excited to begin this new chapter of staying connected.**

*WSCS of United Churches Presents*



**The United Churches of Durham  
Fellowship Hall  
228 Main Street, Durham CT 06422**

## **NEW EMAIL ADDRESSES!**



We're updating how we connect! The United Churches of Durham now has new email addresses for both the office and our financial department to help direct your messages more easily:

- Office: [office@unitedchurches.net](mailto:office@unitedchurches.net)
- Finance: [financial@unitedchurches.net](mailto:financial@unitedchurches.net)

Please update your contact lists and use these addresses moving forward. Pastor Eva's email ([burgencudmore@gmail.com](mailto:burgencudmore@gmail.com)) will remain the same. Thank you for helping us stay connected and organized!

**ATTENTION PLEASE!**



## **Opening for CO-Moderator**

After many years of faithful service, Derek Cumming's term as Church Moderator will come to end in January. Therefore, the Nominating Committee is searching for a CO-Moderator. The CO-Moderator will serve with John Biddiscombe in providing leadership to the congregation in presiding at Congregational Meetings. The Moderator also sits on the Church Council, confers with the Pastor, and, when needed, makes announcements at church services. If you have an interest in this position, or would like more information, please contact a member of the Nominating Committee.

John Hogarth, Tracy Olsen, John Biddiscombe

## **GOOD BYE TONGQING!**

Our time with Tongqing is coming to a close as he is scheduled to return to China at the end of the month. We have loved listening to his masterful presentations of various classical music, as well as his accompaniment to both the choir and the congregation. His last Sunday with us will be January 25<sup>th</sup>. We pray God's blessings on him and this new chapter in his life! He will always be welcome here!

## **WELCOME JENNY-JOY!**

Jenny-Joy will begin her position as Associate Minister of Music, starting in February. A more formal presentation of her will be coming. Jenny-Joy is relocating to our area from Kentucky and thus needs some assistance in "landing well" as she has no other family or friends here. She needs help with the following:

1. **Housing:** She is a single lady with a cat, looking for either short term (transition type) - or long term accommodation. She is actively pursuing this on her own but the more help she can get, the better.
2. **Other employment:** She has extensive experience in caring for people with dementia, Alzheimer, memory issues, as well as end of life care. She is open to live-in care.
3. **Relocation costs:** Moving, along with first and last rental payments and loss of income for a time, all adds up. If you're able to contribute, you may put your gift in the offering with a note stating "JJ" or simply hand it to Mike or Pastor Eva.

# The Middlefield Minute

## Welcome to the Middlefield Minute!

Introducing the **Middlefield Minute**: a dedicated space within Crossroads Connections for sharing news, updates, and meaningful moments from Middlefield Federated Church. This section is designed to help us stay connected, celebrate what's happening in the life of the congregation, and keep our Middlefield community informed and engaged!

Our new office administrator, Aren Alberico, will be working on updating this section of the newsletter, so any suggestions you may have, please feel free to contact him by his primary email at [office@unitedchurches.net](mailto:office@unitedchurches.net) or by phone at (860) 349-3683!

## CALL to ANNUAL MEETING, Pt. I

The Annual Meeting of the Middlefield Federated Church, Inc. will be held January 11, 2026 at 11:30 in Durham at the United Churches of Durham following the Sunday service. The Annual Meeting of the Middlefield Congregational Church and The Charge Conference of the Middlefield United Methodist Church will take place during this time. The agenda will be:

1. Electing officers and team leaders for 2026  
*All other business will be conducted at the Feb. 15 meeting.*

**Please note that we need 20 members present to meet quorum.**

## An Open letter to the Middlefield Federated Church Congregation.

Dear Beloved Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Our congregation is saddened that after facing a long and difficult process, the selling of your church campus has now come to pass. We cannot begin to imagine the emotional weight and uncertainty you are carrying, but please know that our hearts are with you. We are praying for your strength, comfort, and peace as you navigate this painful and uncertain time. Please know that we stand in solidarity with you as part of one family in Christ.

With open arms and sincere love, we want to welcome you into our facilities for worship, gatherings, and any needs that may arise during this difficult time. Our doors - and our hearts - are open to you. We are committed to doing everything we can to support you, not only spiritually, but also in the practical challenges you may face, including logistical concerns. May we walk this path together, trusting that God will bring continued hope and new beginnings.

Most sincerely,

**United Churches of Durham Congregation**  
Through  
**John Biddiscombe, Vice Moderator**  
**Derek Cummings, Moderator**

## Ladies Luncheon – Tuesday, January 13<sup>th</sup> at 12:00pm

This monthly potluck event is now being hosted in the fellowship hall at UCD. We hope you are able to join the ladies that day. Bring a dish to share, a friend, and your appetite!

## Amazing Grace Food Pantry

We are figuring out how to continue with our commitment. If you already have cans, please bring them to UCD or contact Sydney Mintz and we will make sure they get there.

## Contacting MFC?

Please use PO Box 200 as we will continue to receive mail addressed to us at the same PO box as always.

We are keeping the church's phone number. (860) 349-9881 However, right now there is no answering machine at that number, but when in doubt, call UCD, or feel free to call Pastor Eva.

## Pastor Eva's Contact Information

(860) 227- 0722 (Cell phone)  
MFC office: (860) 349-9881  
UCD office: (860) 349-3683  
E-mail: [burgencudmore@gmail.com](mailto:burgencudmore@gmail.com)

# The Middlefield Deacon's Corner

## A DISCOVERY

On the Saturday before our last service at MFC, a group of us readied the building for its sale to St. Sava. We went through cabinets and files to identify documents and pictures that were historical; those we wanted to keep, or those that had to be shredded or thrown out.

Linda Harris and I had the task to gather some old files that was in the lower level of the Education Building. There we found two ancient file cabinets. One was empty, but the other held some old records and a photograph that we found in an old flimsy paper bag. It was a picture of the members of MFC in front of the church building dated October 13, 1929.



We also found a list of names identifying most of the people. What a great find! Linda and I went back to the church building and shared the photo with the group.

CHILDREN:	
FIRST	RICHARD LYMAN JUNE FOWLER MARGARET HUSE GRACIE LINK SUSAN HAWITT BETTY LYMAN HOPE APPELGATH RUTH HEWITT RUTH APPELGATH BUDDY MOUSCH ESTER BURNHAM PAM HIGGINS GEORGE APPLAGATE
SECOND	MRS. FRANK STODDARD ARTHUR FOWLER MRS. ARTHUR FOWLER GEORGE WETHERILL MAY SANFORD REV. SANFORD GEORGE THRSCHMAN REV. APPELGATH AMY DORMER EMMA MILLER P.H. MILLER MRS. WATROUS HARY LINK RUBY FOWLER MRS. HENRY LYMAN JOHN LYMAN
THIRD	ESTELLE STODDARD ELMER CAMP FRAND STODDARD MILDRE WAY ADRIANA CAMP MRS. EARL TERRILL MR. EARL TERRILL MRS. MARY LYMAN AGNES GRAY LIZZIE GANNON PAULINE MOUSCH ALFRE AUGUR
FORTH	BERTHA BURNHAM IRVING FOWLER GEORGE MELBER FRANK LINK HOWARD SIBLEY STANLEY BURNHAM HARRY LYMAN CHARLIE NETTLETON HARRY LINK MRS. APPELGATH ELLA JENKINS NELLIE TERRILL HAROLD BURNHAM GLADYS TRISCHMAN
FIFTH	MRS. APPLAGATH SISTER DR. SMITH MRS. DR. SMITH HARRY LYMAN BERT MOUSCH EDITH LINK MARGARET HABERSANG FLORENCE WAY MARIE HIGGINS FLORENCE PETTERSON SADIE PENDLETON AMY DORMER ALMA MAIER ROSE AGUR NELLIE AUGUAR LUCINA MILLER MRS. BURT COE
SIXTH	WESLEYAN CHOIR LEADER KENNETH HUSE CECILA GARBONINLA MARGARET HUSE LOIS FOWLER EITH MOUSCH KATHRYN HIGGINS EARL TERWABURY FRED FOWLER

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Looking the photo, it dawned on me that the photo was taken several weeks before the stock market crash of 1929, which led to the Great Depression. I wonder if they had any sense as to what was about to happen to their lives in the coming months and years? How did they deal with the hardship and heartache during that period? As difficult as these times were, I believe that they loved, laughed, raised families, and did the best they could despite the circumstances.

Whatever heartache, or loss we may feel as we leave our church building, it probably pales in comparison to what those in that 1929 photograph experienced. Like them, we do not know what the future may bring, but as they say, when one door closes, another one opens. Maybe our focus as a church will become more outward looking and we will be better able to care for one another and those in our community. Somehow the people in that 1929 photo kept moving forward and so shall we.

Blessings to all,  
Paul Bergenholtz, Deacon



### January

Bruce Tubby	Jan. 3 <sup>rd</sup>
Curt Cormack	Jan. 5 <sup>th</sup>
Michael Greenwood	Jan 6 <sup>th</sup>
Elizabeth Shoudy	Jan 6 <sup>th</sup>
Barbara VanHouten	Jan 6 <sup>th</sup>
Terri Peters	Jan. 7 <sup>th</sup>
Alexander Porter	Jan. 8 <sup>th</sup>
Alexander Staddon	Jan. 9 <sup>th</sup>
Nick Faieilla	Jan. 13 <sup>th</sup>
Paul Bergenholtz	Jan. 19 <sup>th</sup>
Del Cade	Jan. 21 <sup>st</sup>
Dina D'Amato	Jan 24 <sup>th</sup>
T.J. Hummel	Jan 27 <sup>th</sup>
Brian Yakey	Jan 28 <sup>th</sup>
Sue Reynolds	Jan 29 <sup>th</sup>
Heather Wimler	Jan 29 <sup>th</sup>
Michael Meurs	Jan 30 <sup>th</sup>
Garrett D'Amato	Jan 31 <sup>st</sup>



### Church Choir

The MFC/UCD choir meets at 7:00pm in the choir room.  
Please join us!



### Seniors' Lunch every Monday and Wednesday

**DURHAM COMMUNITY CENTER**  
144 Pickett Lane, Durham, CT

Lunches for folks aged 60 or older will be held from 11:00am to 1:00pm with lunch served at noon. A voluntary donation of \$3.00 is suggested for eligible participants, however, no one will be denied a meal if unable to pay.

*Please sign up by Wednesday each week for the following week by calling, emailing, or using the sign-up sheets available during lunch. Join us!*

(Morgan Perry 860-349- 3153  
[mperry@townofdurhamct.org](mailto:mperry@townofdurhamct.org))



### January

James & Maria Chapman	Jan. 1 <sup>st</sup>
John & Lori Michaud	Jan. 7 <sup>th</sup>



## UCD Bylaws Update

Our Church Bylaws are being updated. Committee members John Biddescombe, Bob Guynn, Pam Hogarth, and Tracy Olsen are hard at work revising the Bylaws from 2014 and Amendments from 2017 into a new document which will be presented to the congregation for approval. Please see one of us if you have questions.



Thank you to all those who have already pledged! Through our gifts of time, talent, and treasure, we help strengthen the ministries and mission that make our church family thrive. **You can still return your pledge cards by mail or bring them to the church office during our regular hours** (Wednesdays and Fridays, 9 AM–2 PM) **or drop them in the offering plate during Sunday worship.** Extra pledge cards are available in the office.



## Children's Program

We continue to explore the idea of a new children's program for Sunday mornings, starting in the new year, and are looking for volunteers to help bring it to life. Whether you can assist regularly or just occasionally, your support would make a big difference! If you are interested in being a part of this meaningful work. Please contact Pastor Eva with any additional questions!



## Missions Moment

The "Mighty Missions of the Mission's Committee" are revving up and we continually focus on these 2 things:

\* **CARE CARDS:** We continually send cards to members and get great enjoyment in doing so!

\* **FOOD DONATIONS:** Collections are continually brought to The Durham Pantry and to Amazing Grace. For drop-offs, you can leave items in the bins on the porch at the Fairchild House and in the church sanctuary. You can use the reusable bags that are in the bins!

### 1. These basic items are needed:

*(Please, nothing opened or expired!)*

- ▶ Protein-based, low sodium soups
- ▶ Baked beans
- ▶ Black beans
- ▶ Canned chicken
- ▶ Mac and cheese
- ▶ Instant potatoes
- ▶ Jelly/jam
- ▶ Coffee
- ▶ Canned tomatoes (crushed, diced)
- ▶ Sauce
- ▶ Condiments (ketchup, mayonnaise, salad dressing)
- ▶ Rice
- ▶ Granola bars, crackers, healthy snacks
- ▶ Cleaning products (laundry detergent, disinfectant sprays)
- ▶ Paper towels
- ▶ Hygiene products (deodorant, shampoo, body wash)

**Thank you so much for your continual support!!**

**The Mission's Committee:** Pam Hogarth (Chair), Nancy Hennick (Co-chair), Lynn Breton, Clara Chapman, Elaine Lowe, Tracy Olsen, Heather Petit and Jan Wenzel



## Newsletter

If you have updates, announcements, or events you'd like included in our newsletters, please remember to send them in!

- **Weekly Newsletter Deadline:** Wednesdays @ Noon
- **Monthly Newsletter Deadline:** January 29<sup>th</sup>

Your contributions help keep our community informed and engaged—thank you!

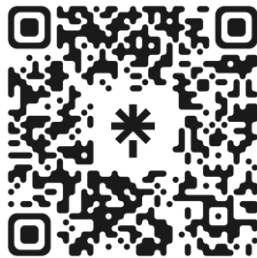
**Crossroads Connections**

*A Combined Newsletter*

**Worship**

Join us every Sunday at 10am,  
with Communion celebrated on  
the first Sunday of the month.  
We also stream services live on  
our Facebook:

<https://linktr.ee/unitedchurches>



[www.unitedchurches.net](http://www.unitedchurches.net)

**United Churches of  
Durham**

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Durham, CT 06422

**Middlefield Federated  
Church**

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**Office Hours:**

Weds/Fri  
9am-2pm

**Pastor**

Rev. Eva Cudmore

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**Email:**

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Tongqing Liu

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