



# The Crossroads Connection

A Newsletter for United Churches of Durham  
& Middlefield Federated Church

Volume 3, March 2026  
Office: (860) 349-3683

## March at a Glance

**Sunday, March 1<sup>st</sup>**  
Communion Service  
Time: 10am

**Saturday, March 7<sup>th</sup>**  
Men's Breakfast  
Time: 8:30am  
Loc: Athena Diner, Middletown

**Sunday, March 8<sup>th</sup>**  
Worship Service  
Time: 10am

**Tuesday, March 10<sup>th</sup>**  
Ladies Luncheon  
Time: 12pm  
Loc: Fellowship Hall

**Saturday, March 14<sup>th</sup>**  
New Member Class  
Time: 9am-12pm  
Loc: TBD

**Sunday, March 15<sup>th</sup>**  
Worship Service  
Time: 10am

**Sunday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>**  
Worship Service  
Time: 10am

**Saturday, March 28<sup>th</sup>**  
New Member Class  
Time: 9am-2pm  
Loc: TBD

**Sunday, March 29<sup>th</sup>**  
Palm Sunday Service  
Time: 10am  
Loc: Sanctuary

**Read on for more details!**

## The Pastor's Thoughts

*O sing to the Lord a new song;  
sing to the Lord, all the earth.  
Sing to the Lord; bless his name;  
tell of his salvation from day to day.  
Declare his glory among the nations,  
his marvelous works among all the peoples.  
For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised;  
he is to be revered above all gods.*  
(Psalm 96:1-4)

### Dear Friends,

The scripture's call to sing songs to God is pretty insistent, and in almost every Christian tradition people are singing songs of worship. But what songs are you singing in your heart these days? For myself, I'm not quite sure what I'm singing. Perhaps it's something of a potpourri. When I look at Ukraine and also the Middle East and the events that take place there, my song becomes a wordless melody of lament. And when I hear and read about the victims of physical brutality and flagrant injustices, the song becomes one of anger and of mourning. But when I think of my family and my friends, songs of joy and gratitude spill out.

Often these songs are deeply personal and "composed" by me, but mostly I find already written music and songs around me to express and process my situation and emotions. Frequently I find words to borrow in the book of Psalms. There I find words for rejoicing, for comfort and for strength, and I find encouragement in knowing I share these psalms with countless of saints that have sung these songs as well. But also in our hymnals and my personal music library there are songs that speak into my life and faith. Some of these were especially poignant at specific times in my life, others have stayed with me through all the changes. Such as one line from "Great is Thy Faithfulness" (#140) where one stanza from verse 3 reads: ... "thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide; *strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow ...*" That short line has become my prayer untold number of times as I dealt with challenges of different kinds, but especially as I was going through chemo treatments. Another one is a song by Casting Crowns: "Who am I?" that just marvels at the grace that God looks to me. On days of goodness and beauty as well as of pain and difficulty, the lyrics speak of God's amazing grace.

*Continued...*

*Continued...*

I know that many of us share that same experience of singing or listening to a specific song (or songs) that speaks of God's peace, or hope, or joy etc. at significant times, or even seem to summarize our life of faith.

**So here's an idea:** how about we share with each other a specific hymn or song that is special to you, and also how God has touched your life through it?

And we share that on a Sunday morning and then we all sing it. One hymn/song and testimony per Sunday. And if we can't sing it together, then perhaps the choir can.. Or a piece that we just listen to or perhaps someone present as a special musical offering. You get the idea. This way we get to share how God has touched us through music, and we all are invited to share that mercy and comfort together.

In the next few weeks I will put out a list of Sunday dates, beginning after Easter, where you are welcome to pick a date and write down the hymn or song you choose for us to sing, along with your name.

I can't wait to get to know and sing part of YOUR story as we worship together!

***Pastor Eva***

## MARCH WORSHIP

<b>March 1</b> <b>Communion</b> 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Lent	<b>March 8</b> 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Lent	<b>March 15</b> <b>Scout Sunday?</b> 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent	<b>March 22</b> <b>Scout Sunday?</b> 5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent	<b>March 29</b> <b>Palm Sunday</b> 6 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent
<b>OT:</b> Gen 12:1-4a <b>NT:</b> Rom 4:1-5,13-17 <b>Gospel:</b> John 3:1-17	<b>OT:</b> Ex 17:1-7 <b>NT:</b> Rom 5:1-11 <b>Gospel:</b> John 4:5-42	<b>OT:</b> 1 Sam 16:1-13 <b>NT:</b> Eph 5:8-14 <b>Gospel:</b> John 9:5-41	<b>OT:</b> Ezek 37:1-14 <b>NT:</b> Rom 8:6-11 <b>Gospel:</b> John 11:1-45	<b>OT:</b> Ps 118:1-2, 9-29 <b>NT:</b> Phil 2:5-11 <b>Gospel:</b> Matt 21:1-11
<b>Liturgist</b> Vicki Berry	<b>Liturgist</b> Carolyn Cairns	<b>Liturgist</b> Amy Dills	<b>Liturgist</b> TBD	<b>Liturgist</b> Bridget Melien
<b>Ushers/DOD</b> Linda Schulz Vicki Berry	<b>Ushers/DOD</b> Jen DiPentima	<b>Ushers/DOD</b> TBD	<b>Ushers/DOD</b> TBD	<b>Ushers/DOD</b> Bridget Melien
<b>Coffee Hour</b> UCD Trustees	<b>Coffee Hour</b> MFC	<b>Coffee Hour</b> UCD Missions	<b>Coffee Hour</b> UCD Deacons	<b>Coffee Hour</b> UCD WSCS
<b>Notes</b>	<b>Notes</b>	<b>Notes</b> Scout Sunday Date TBD	<b>Notes</b> Guest Sermon: Aren Alberico	<b>Notes</b>



## HOLY WEEK OBSERVANCE AND EASTER CELEBRATIONS



### PALM / PASSION SUNDAY

**Sunday, March 29**  
**10 AM, Palm/Passion Sunday**

A service that begins in joyful celebration with Hosanna's and palms, and concludes in thoughtful reflection of the week ahead.



### MAUNDY THURSDAY

**Thursday, April 2**  
**7 PM, Maundy Thursday/Tenebrae Service**

We remember Jesus' last evening together with his disciples and partake in communion. Then we move into the shadows as we listen to how the events unfolded and light is extinguished on the cross. We leave the sanctuary in silence.



### EASTER

**Sunday, April 5**  
**6:30 AM, Easter Sunrise Service** on top of the hill at Lyman's orchards. We greet the day with the Good News, the BEST news the world has received.

**10:00 AM, Easter Service with Communion.** A joyful celebration of the triumph of Life over death, of Love over hate, of Light over nothingness.



## New Member Class

One of Jesus' primary gifts to his followers was a transformed community. A community that was transformed by God's presence and love for them, and shared generously with one another and their surrounding community through radical hospitality. Becoming a member of a congregation and sharing in its ministries is one way we choose to live out this blessed community. We will be holding two gatherings in preparation of possibly receiving new members on May 3.

**Saturday, March 14, 9 AM -12 PM**

**Saturday, March 28, 9 AM - 2 PM**

If you are **new to the faith** and/or our community and want to know more about what it is to be a member of either UCD or MFC, you are welcome to attend these two gatherings. We will talk about our faith, share our journeys with one another, explore our denominations' characteristics, and the mission and ministries of both MFC and UCD. Light refreshments will be served.

**Saturday, March 28, 12 -2 PM**

If you are **already a member of another UCC/UMC** congregation and consider transferring your membership, you are welcome to this meeting. Beginning with lunch, we will get to know one another, share our faith journey, and also talk more about the mission and ministries of UCD and MFC.

Please contact the church office or Pastor Eva directly, to sign up for either event or receive more information.



## 2025 Annual Report & Annual Meeting Minutes

We are thankful to all that attended our annual meeting on Sunday for both congregations. Limited physical copies of the 2025 Annual Report for both congregations are available in the narthex for pickup. Linked in our email is a PDF copy of the 2025 Annual Report, which can also be requested via email. Minutes for both meetings will be made available soon!



The “Mighty Missions of the Mission’s Committee” are revving up and we continually focus on these items:

**1. Amazing Grace.** These items are currently in short supply at Amazing Grace. We will concentrate on them during the month of March:

*(Please, nothing opened or expired!)*

- ▶ Soups - No creamed soups
- ▶ Condiments - Mayonnaise, Ketchup, Mustard
- ▶ Tea, Coffee, Hot Chocolate
- ▶ Tomato Products - Canned Tomatoes, Tomato Sauce, Tomato Paste
- ▶ Baked Beans-15-16 ounces
- ▶ BROWN Rice

Items may be left in designated baked bean totes in either of 2 areas at UCD---Fellowship Hall or the church narthex OR contact Sydney Mintz or Pam Hogarth for other options.

**2. March Focus:** Every month, different items will also be need: For the **Month of March, the focus will be on Toiletries and Hair Care.**

**3. Heifer International.** At our United Churches, Lenten giving means Heifer International. Over the years, we have donated thousands of dollars to support their good work. This year’s collection will start on Sunday, February 22, and continue through the Sunday after Easter, April 12. You can leave donations in the offering plate or in the labeled jar, or you can participate by sending a donation to the church office with “for Heifer” noted.

**4. Eddy Shelter.** Our Chili ministry to the Eddy Shelter will continue as usual on the 3rd Sunday of each month (*subject to change for holidays and weather disruptions*). **DESSERTS CAN BE DELIVERED TO UCD ON SUNDAY MORNING MARCH 15, OR TO JO-ANN HALIBOZEK’S HOME ON SUNDAY AFTERNOON BETWEEN 4 AND 5 PM.**

**5. Care Cards.** We continually send cards to members and get great enjoyment in doing so!

*As always, we are grateful for your continued generosity and support for our various missions and outreach programs!*

**Thank you!**



## Easter Flowers

**This year, Easter Sunday falls on Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup>.**

If you would like to donate flowers for our sanctuary for Easter, please contact the church office. More information, including prices, order forms, and deadlines will be announced in our weekly newsletter. Physical order forms will also be made available in the Narthex as soon as they have been finalized.

As usual, dedications for our beautiful flowers and gifts will be recorded in the Easter Sunday Bulletin. The flowers may be taken home after the service on Easter Sunday.



## ALL-CHURCH CENSUS

One of our major goals for the year is to compile a complete and up-to-date database for both the Middlefield and Durham Congregations. Having accurate contact information allows us to communicate more effectively about worship, events, pastoral care needs, volunteer opportunities, and other important church updates. It also helps us ensure that no one in our church family is unintentionally left out of important news and announcements.

To help us accomplish this, we ask that every household take a few moments to fill out our census form. The form, hosted through **Google Forms** can be accessed through the link provided here (<https://forms.gle/DMUY7S5iuR6JMg7i7>), or by scanning the LinkTree QR code located on the back of this newsletter by **Thursday, April 30<sup>th</sup>**!



### March

Tammy Burt	3/7
Stacey Prifitera	3/11
Heather Petit	3/12
Patty Cade	3/12
Rachel Dils	3/12
Barbara Fowler	3/12
Debbie Carras	3/13
Vie Kish	3/13
Carol Francis	3/13
Janet Rinaldi	3/13
Tessa Lussier	3/14
Bob Dlugolenski	3/14
Dot Barker	3/17
Patricia Smith	3/17
Jennifer Fowler	3/20
Katelyn Cummings	3/22
Patrick Tungate	3/22
Marilyn Gerzabek	3/24
Carl Schlicker	3/25
Dean McCoy	3/27
Bill Martin	3/27
Ian Weissberg	3/29
Bob Elder	3/31
Ruth Wintsch	3/31

Join us for



Under the direction of  
*Mike Meurs*

Our combined choir meet on Thursday evenings at 7:00pm. For more information, contact Mike at: [Mevis0130@gmail.com](mailto:Mevis0130@gmail.com)

Come One and All, The More the Merrier!



### March

Bob & Claudia Guynn 3/31



*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))



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:** March 18<sup>th</sup>

Check out <https://www.unitedchurches.net/events.html> for a full calendar of upcoming events, updated weekly!

# The Middlefield Minute

## MFC Bylaw Review

Most churches have some type of internal document that sets the rules and expectations for its members in relation to the ministry. Usually, this document is referred to as the bylaws. Basically, this document acts as a type of contract between the church and its members. It details topics like the ministry's purpose, organizational structure and leadership roles.

It is often the foundation of any church's internal rules and self-governance. Keeping bylaws current and up-to-date to remain compliant is necessary for any church and particularly now for us as MFC moves forward in our planning process for the future. MFC's by-laws have not been reviewed, updated or amended for many years and it is time this work gets done.

**If you want to be part of a small committee that will be carrying out this work, please email the church ([church.mfc@gmail.com](mailto:church.mfc@gmail.com)) and/or leave a voicemail message (860-349-9881). Our church administrator Aren will be collecting your communications.**

## Recycle and Help Save the Earth

The recycle bin has been moved from MFC to between the office and Fellowship Hall at UCD. **SAVE** your bottles, cans and plastics and place them in the appropriate "hole" in the recycle bin. A member from MFC will recycle them. **RINSE CONTAINERS BEFORE PUTTING THEM IN THE BIN AND** be sure to save the can tabs for Shriners.

## A Thank You Note from Pastor Eva

Dear MFC and UCD Friends,

Thank you for the many, many shows of love and sympathy extended to me and my family at the time of my mother's passing. Thank You also for the wonderfully soft shawl that feels like God's love wrapped around me. I am grateful and blessed to be serving amidst such kind hearted and caring people.

Sincerely, Pastor Eva

## Contacting MFC?

Please use PO Box 200 as we will continue to receive mail addressed to us at the same PO box as always. For the month of March, we are keeping the church's phone number. (860) 349-9881. This number is forwarded to UCD and is monitored by our office administrator.

# DAYS FOR GIRLS



## Our Rocky Hill Team: 8 Years Strong

For eight years, our incredible Rocky Hill team has been showing up to sew, pack, and prepare menstrual health kits for distribution across the globe. Though small in size, our group is mighty in impact—creating an average of 2,800 feminine hygiene kits for women and girls around the world.

## Get Involved

Our team runs entirely on donations and volunteers. We are always in need of:

- 100% cotton fabric
- Underwear (girls' and women's sizes)
- Washcloths

You don't need to sew to help! There's plenty to do—washing and cutting fabric, ironing, stringing ribbons, pinning pieces, or tracing liner patterns.

## 2026 Workshop Dates

We meet every third Saturday, January through October:

• **Mar 21** • Apr 18 • May 16 • Jun 20 • Jul 18 •



I would like to thank Bill, Bob D, Bob G, John, and Lori for their assistance in getting some of my belongings moved to my apartment. I also send a note of gratitude to Mike and Alexis's families for providing places both for me, and for my kitten, to stay until I found my apartment. I am also very grateful for each and every financial contribution that continues to help as I continue to get settled in my other jobs.

I am very honored and grateful to serve you all, and work with you, as Associate Minister of Music, here at United Churches of Durham!

- Jenny-Joy Moore

If you would like to learn more about Jenny-Joy and her journey, you can read the article "Getting to Know Jenny-Joy" in the February edition of the *Crossroads Connection*, which can be accessed by visiting our website!

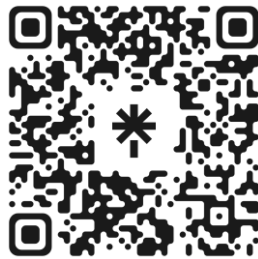
# MARCH 2026

Our Church Office Hours are Wednesdays and Fridays from 9am to 2pm

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Worship 10am Coffee Hour 11am <b>Communion</b>	2	3 Scouts 6:45-8:45	4	5 Church Choir Rehearsal 7pm	6	7 Men's Breakfast 8:30am, Athena Diner, Middletown
8 Worship 10am Coffee Hour 11am <b>Daylight Savings</b>	9	10 Ladies Luncheon 12pm, UCD FH Bluegrass 7pm	11 UCD Trustees 7pm	12 Church Choir Rehearsal 7pm Scouts 6:45-8:45	13	14 New Member Class, 9am-2pm
15 Worship 10am Coffee Hour 11am <b>Scout Sunday?</b>	16	17 <b>St. Patrick's Day</b> Scouts 6:45-8:45	18 Deacons 6:30pm MFC All Boards 7pm (Zoom)	19 Church Choir Rehearsal 7pm Scouts 6:45-8:45	20	21
22 Worship 10am Coffee Hour 11am GP: Aren Alberico	23	24 Scouts 6:45-8:45 Bluegrass 7pm	25 UCD Council 7pm	26 Church Choir Rehearsal 7pm Scouts 6:45-8:45	27	28 New Member Class, 9am-2pm
29 <b>Palm Sunday</b> Worship 10am Coffee Hour 11am	30	31 Scouts 6:45-8:45		<b>April 2</b> Maundy Thursday Service at 7pm		

**The Crossroads Connection**  
March 2026

**Sunday Worship: 10am**  
Communion is celebrated on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of every month. Can't make it in person? We stream services live on our Facebook:  
<https://linktr.ee/unitedchurches>



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

**United Churches of Durham**  
228 Main Street,  
Durham, CT 06422

**Middlefield Federated Church**  
PO Box 200,  
Middlefield, CT, 06455

**Administrator**  
Aren Alberico

**Office Email:**  
[office@unitedchurches.net](mailto:office@unitedchurches.net)

**Office Phone:**  
(860) 349-3683

**Office Hours:**  
Weds/Fri  
9am-2pm  
Mon: Appointment Only

**Pastor**  
Rev. Eva Cudmore

**Email:**  
[burgencudmore@gmail.com](mailto:burgencudmore@gmail.com)

**Cell:**  
(860) 227-0722

**Office Hours:**  
Tues/Weds/Fri  
9am-2pm  
Thurs: Flexible

**Music Director**  
Michael Meurs

**Email:**  
[Mevis0130@gmail.com](mailto:Mevis0130@gmail.com)

**Assistant Music Director**  
Jenny-Joy Moore

**Email:**  
**Coming Soon!**