



The Crossroads Connection

A Newsletter for United Churches of Durham
& Middlefield Federated Church

Volume 4, April 2026
Office: (860) 349-3683

April at a Glance

Thursday, April 2nd
Maundy Thursday Service
Time: 7pm
Loc: Sanctuary

Saturday, April 4th
Men's Breakfast
Time: 8:30am
Loc: Athenian Diner II

Sunday, April 5th
Easter Sunrise Service
Time: 6:30am
Loc: Lyman Orchards

Sunday, April 5th
Easter Sunday Worship
Time: 10am
Loc: Sanctuary

Sunday, April 12th
Worship Service
Time: 10am
Loc: Sanctuary

Sunday, April 19th
Sunday Service
Time: 10am
Loc: Sanctuary

Tuesday, April 21st
Ladies Luncheon
Time: 12pm
Loc: Fellowship Hall

Saturday, April 25th
Bluegrass Coffee Hour
Time: 1pm
Loc: Fellowship Hall

Sunday, April 26th
Sunday Service
Time: 10am
Loc: Sanctuary

The Pastor's Thoughts

An Easter Poem:

Easter

Bring in your dead.
Bring in your flattened.
Bring in your hopeless cases
and your lost causes.
Bring in your trampled hearts.
Bring in your dry eyes
that have long shed all tears.
Bring in everything that has lost its pulse.

And wait.

There is a resurrection song;
can you hear it?
There is a promise that hangs overhead.
There is a life to come,
a world unseen,
a presence of something too real to believe.
There is an angel in your ear, whispering,
no really, all shall be well.

Today we profess what we don't really believe,
hoping that our hearts can change,
hoping against all logic
that logic does not exist.
Today we ask for grace to believe
once and for all,
and instead we are given the grace
to believe just one day more.

This poem by Shannon Evans, along with other Ignatian prayers, poems, reflections and art, first appeared in the free e-book, "Christ Plays in Ten Thousand Places: Through the Year with Ignatian Spirituality."

Pastor Eva

APRIL WORSHIP

April 2 7pm Service Maundy Thursday	April 5 Easter Sunday Communion	April 12 2 nd Sun. of Easter	April 19 3 rd Sun. of Easter	April 26 4 th Sun. of Easter
OT: Ex 12:1-14 NT: 1 Cor 11:23-26 Gospel: John 13:1-17, 31b-35	OT: Jer 31:1-6 NT: Col 3:1-4 Gospel: John 20:1-18	NT: Acts 2:22-32 NT: 1 Peter 1:3-9 Gospel: John 20:19-31	NT: Acts 2:36-41 NT: 1 Peter 1:17-23 Gospel: Luke 24:13-35	OT: Psalm 23 NT: 1 Peter 2:19-25 Gospel: John 10:1-10
Liturgist N/A	Liturgist John Biddiscombe	Liturgist Paul Bergeholtz	Liturgist John Biddiscombe	Liturgist Amy Dills
Ushers/DOD Stacey Prifitera	Ushers/DOD Stacey Prifitera Linda Harris Derek Cummings	Ushers/DOD TBD	Ushers/DOD TBD	Ushers/DOD TBD
Coffee Hour N/A	Coffee Hour UCD Trustees	Coffee Hour MFC	Coffee Hour UCD Missions	Coffee Hour UCD Deacons
Notes 7:00pm Service Communion Tenebrae	Notes <u>6:30am</u> Sunrise at Lyman Orchards <u>10am</u> Service w/ Communion, UCD	Notes	Notes GP: Aren Alberico	Notes



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.

WSCS of United Churches Presents

BLUEGRASS COFFEE HOUSE & BAKE SALE



...with Bill Mintz & Company

Saturday, April 25, 2026 • 1–4 PM

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

Featuring:

Free Coffee, Tea, & Cocoa
Indoor Board Games
Snacks & Baked Goods for Sale
Outdoor Children's Activities
Plant Exhibitions and Sales
Community Tables
& More!



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 30th**!

UCD Missions Presents...

The Annual Spring



**Saturday, May 9, 2026,
from 8am to 1pm**

(No early birds, Please)

Individual spots are available for \$20.

If you have questions or need help,
call 860-490-7624.



2025 Annual Report & Annual Meeting Minutes

Copies of the Annual Report for United Churches of Durham and Middlefield Federated Church, in both physical and digital formats, are available upon request from the office. We are currently working on compiling the minutes for both meetings. Once we have done so, links to both can be accessed by scanning the LinkTree QR code located on the back of this newsletter!



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

1. Amazing Grace. Our commitment to **SOS (Support Our Shelves)** at Amazing Grace is **75 pounds 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 DENTED OR OUTDATED CANS PLEASE!** Your continued support of this mission is very appreciated. 79 pounds of baked beans were delivered to Amazing Grace for March.

2. April Focus: Every month, different items will also be need: For the **Month of April, the focus will be on Dental 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 APRIL 19, OR TO JO-ANN HALIBOZEK'S HOME ON SUNDAY AFTERNOON BETWEEN 4 AND 5 PM.**

5. Recycling Bin (Save the Earth). The recycle bin is located 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.

6. 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!

Thank You...

As I approach my one-year anniversary of serving at United Churches this May, I find myself especially grateful for how quickly this congregation has welcomed me with open and loving arms. This past month, and really this past year, has been a difficult one for my family. As some of you know, my grandmother, Betty, who was like a second parent to me, had been in and out of the hospital over the last six months. Earlier this month, she passed away. She often came to hear me preach and had the chance to meet some of you during her visits.

On behalf of my family, I want to extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who surrounded my grandmother with love, thoughts, and prayer over this past year, and to those who sent cards, texts, and emails to me and mother to express your sympathy. Though she was only able to attend one service here, she truly cherished the experience of meeting this community. Afterward, she told me how happy she was that I had found another church to work for that was filled with such kind and caring people. She was also very impressed with coffee hour. She was a true foodie, and very particular about her egg salad, but she loved yours so much that she went back for seconds (which was rare!).

I am also very grateful to Pastor Eva for attending the memorial service on March 22nd, and to Heather for stepping in to preach on such short notice

Again, your kindness and support have meant so much to me, and I feel truly blessed to be part of this community.

Aren Alberico
Office Administrator

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

Come One and All, The More the Merrier!



April

Kristen Kruger	4/3
Quinn Thompson	4/3
Emily Pope	4/5
Samantha Michaud	4/7
Cooper Berry	4/8
Elizabeth Nick	4/10
Marcia Pendleton-Sacco	4/14
Sofia Hurlbert	4/15
Clara Carlson	4/20
Tessa Carlson	4/20
Jillian Meurs	4/21
Kim Mach	4/22
Kim Hummel	4/22
Katelyn Cummings	4/22
Karen Guzman	4/25
Bronwyn Commins	4/27
Sully McCoy	4/30

FLOWERS

for Sunday Worship Services!

You are invited to bring FLOWERS to beautify our Sanctuary!

Flowers may come from your garden or from anywhere you choose to purchase them. They can be given for any occasion—in honor or in memory of a loved one, to celebrate a birthday, or simply to mark a special day.

After the service, you are welcome to take your flowers home, share them with a member, leave them in the church office, or donate them to a nursing home.

If you would like to sign up for a specific date, please use the sign-up sheet at church or contact Nancy Hennick at (860-614-8847).

Multiple people are welcome to bring flowers on the same day—the more, the merrier!



April

Patrick & Michele Tungate	4/8
Rick & Pam Huntley	4/29



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)



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:** April 22

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

Expect some design changes for the Crossroads Connection in the next few months and be sure to stay tuned to your emails for a new weekly newsletter, coming this Spring!

The Middlefield Minute

The Middlefield Deacons Corner

Spring and Holy Week is a great time to think about what the resurrection really means—not just for each of us, but for all of us together. The story of Jesus rising reminds us that faith isn't meant to be lived alone. His followers didn't go off on their own—they gathered, shared meals, and encouraged one another. They became a body, connected in purpose and love.

Acts 2:42–47 shows the early believers devoting themselves to teaching, fellowship, and sharing life together. They celebrated, supported one another, and grew as a community. That's a model for us today.

It's easy to fall into "just me and God," especially when life is busy. Truly though, we grow stronger when we lean on each other, carry one another's burdens, and celebrate life together. People often come to church because someone invitee (nudged) them. A simple connect, a shared meal, or a friendly conversation can make a real difference.

This month, think about someone you might reach out to—someone who could use encouragement, friendship, or a sense of belonging. Maybe it's a new face in church, a neighbor, or someone who's been away for a while.

What small step can you take to help form a stronger body in your corner of God's community?

Amy Dills, MFC Deacons

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) and/or leave a voicemail message (860-349-9881). Our church administrator Aren will be collecting your communications.



Imagine This...

What if you had to miss school or work simply because you didn't have access to proper menstrual supplies? How many days each year would you lose in education and wages—just because of your period? Now imagine never being taught about menstruation at all—or worse, being made to feel ashamed of your body. This is the reality for more than **500 million women, girls, and menstruators worldwide**. It's called **Period Poverty**—the lack of access to safe, affordable menstrual supplies and education. Period poverty leads to missed school days, lost income, poor mental and physical health, and deep-rooted stigma.

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.

Global Impact

Recently, we've partnered with **Jean Scialabba** from the Orange, CT Chapter, expanding our reach through missions that serve communities most in need. Days for Girls is dedicated to eliminating the stigma and limitations surrounding menstruation so that women and girls can experience improved health, education, and economic opportunity. To date, Days for Girls has reached more than **3.5 million women and girls** around the world with life-changing menstrual health solutions.

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:
• **Apr 18** • May 16 • Jun 20 • Jul 18 • Aug 16 • Sep 20 •

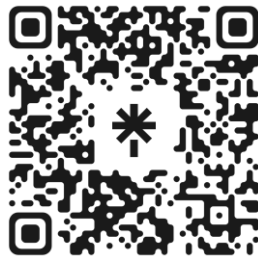
April 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 Mundy Thursday Worship Service 7pm	3	4 Men's Breakfast 8:30am, Athenian Diner II, Middletown
5 EASTER SUNDAY Sunrise Service 6:30am @ Lyman Orchards Communion 10:00am	6 Accidental Harmony Rehearsal 7pm	7 Scouts 6:45-8:45	8 UCD Trustees 7pm	9 Choir Practice 7pm	10	11
12 Worship 10am Coffee Hour 11am	13 Accidental Harmony Rehearsal 7pm	14 Scouts 6:45-8:45 Bluegrass 7pm	15 MFC All Boards 7pm (Zoom)	16 Choir Practice 7pm	17	18
19 Worship 10am Guest Preacher Aren Alberico	20 Accidental Harmony Rehearsal 7pm	21 Ladies Luncheon 12pm, UCD FH Scouts 6:45-8:45	22 Deacons 6:00pm UCD Council 7pm	23 Choir Practice 7pm	24	25 Bluegrass Coffee House, 1pm-4pm
26 Worship 10am Coffee Hour 11am	27 Accidental Harmony Rehearsal 7pm	28 Scouts 6:45-8:45 Bluegrass 7pm	29 Accidental Harmony Dress Rehearsal 7pm	30 Choir Practice 7pm		May Events: Accidental Harmony Concert, Spring Tag Sale

The Crossroads Connection
A Newsletter for April 2026

Sunday Worship: 10am

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



www.unitedchurches.net

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