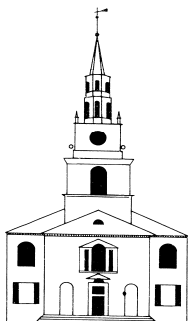


Church Matters

January 2012



THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

United Church of Christ
27 North Pleasant Street
Middlebury, Vermont 05753

Rev. Andrew Nagy-Benson, Pastor
Sunday Morning Worship at 10 a.m.

midducc@comcast.net (802) 388-7634 (office)
www.midducc.org (website)

A NEW YEAR

It's January, the beginning of a new a month, and a new year. However, before we can move forward, we need to take a look back at what we've done in 2011 by writing our annual reports. Annual reports should be emailed to the Church Office or delivered by 9 a.m. on Monday, January 9. An email has been sent to those who need to write a report or two. Remember: short, concise, and prompt. The Annual Meeting will be held Sunday, January 29, right after the worship service. There will also be a potluck meal at noon in Fellowship Hall. -jwf

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Dear Church family and friends,

It is Christmas afternoon. I'm half asleep at half past six. Our home and our church have been full of late. In the past 24 hours, more than 500 people attended one of our three worship services. At each of the services there were more people than I expected. Perhaps I should adjust my expectations.

Before the day ends, I want to express my thanks to the many people who contributed to the richness of our Christmas weekend. Please forgive me if I forget someone in the process.

...

Thank you, Deacons. You attended to many details, which allowed me to focus on my tasks and allowed churchgoers to enter more deeply into worship. And special thanks to Shannon, Andrew, and Abby Gleason and to Frank “the Extinguisher” Winkler for their contributions as honorary deacons.

Thank you, Musicians. Jeff and Jessica, John and Amy, and our choirs sounded beautiful on Christmas Eve. Bob (piano) and Mira (soprano) graced our Christmas Day service.

Thank you, readers. You read well, and that is no small thing!

Thank you, Staff. Joyce copied bulletins ’til she was collating in her sleep. Jennifer was a tremendous help to our children and their families before, during, and after the 4 pm service. And Mal made sure everything was under control between Christmas Eve services.

Thank you, Audio/Visual Engineers. (I didn’t miss picking up ESPN radio this Christmas Eve.)

Thank you, Dressers of the Sanctuary. You made our worship space a more beautiful place.

And thank you, Members and Friends, for sharing a LOVE that makes this place more than a pretty face. Okay, I just used “pretty face” in a sentence. It’s time to rest.

God bless you all in 2012.

Grace and Peace,
Andy

Our Work and Home

SCHEDULING SUMMIT TO BE HELD

It's time to take a look at the calendar again, for January through April. If you will need space in Charter House or the Church, please attend this short meeting on Wednesday, January 11, in the Charter House dining room. We will begin at 6:45 pm and finish by 7:30 pm. By getting together we can put everything on the calendar and compromise when it comes to the use of our spaces.

MEN'S THURSDAY LUNCH

On the third Thursday of the month, January 19, the men will meet for lunch at Rosie's Restaurant on Route 7 at 12 noon. Anyone interested in joining us, please just show up at Rosie's. If you have questions or need a ride to lunch, call Mal Chase at 989-0037.

ANNUAL POT LUCK DINNER

On January 29, after the Annual Meeting, a potluck dinner will be held in Fellowship Hall. Everyone is asked to bring a casserole, salad, or dessert plus your place setting (plate, cup, and silver-ware). This will be a big help to the Committee of Maureen Williams, Anna Hardway, and Robin Bentley.

2011 MUHS CONCERT AND RECEPTION

Liz Lebeau and 70 MUHS Chorus members came for their Annual Christmas Concert at our church on Tuesday, December 6, 2011. The young people put on a very enjoyable concert, for an audi-ence of about 85 people. Thanks to Liz and her musicians.

Following the presentation, Liz and the group led the audience in the singing of carols, after which all enjoyed tea and cookies in Fellowship Hall, served by Becky Fifield and her committee. Thanks to all who made cookies and to Becky and her committee.

EASY SUPPERS FOR EIGHT

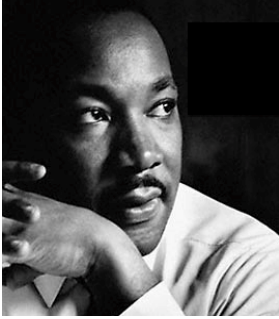
This is the time of year that we sign up for what we have previously called “Simple Suppers for Six.” The Membership Committee has decided to make a small revision this year. We have found that often the suppers for six became suppers for four. It was decided to put eight people in each group. If one or two people can’t make it, there will still be a good group. This is an easy way to get to know the people sitting near you in church or that you visit with at fellowship hour. We hope you sign up for this. It is one of the few activities in our Church that is really just a nice opportunity to get to know fellow members.

These suppers are intended to be easy—winter meals in a warm setting, cookouts, lunches or dinners, picnics, salads, or pizza. The goal is to have fun without too much work. For more information, please call or email Nancy Foster (545-2629, rnfooster@gmavt.net) or Kathy Heitkamp (545-2443, kamp72@gmail.com).

Our Children

January brings Martin Luther King Jr. Day and with that a quote I would like to share:

As you press on for justice, be sure to move with dignity and discipline, using only the weapon of love. Let no man pull you so low as to hate him. Always avoid violence.



As the children and I have been focusing on the topic of justice this year in church school, this quote has been our closing prayer during Big Meeting each Sunday. Martin Luther King Jr. was a great advocate for justice, and we will honor him by participating in an upcoming service project around his birthday. Look for more details to come

your way!

I would like to offer a big thank you to Jim Wright for devoting his time and talents to the youngest members of our church school. Starting in January, Lisa Rader will once again join our teaching staff and lead the Pre-K/K class until June. Welcome back Lisa!

Confirmation classes will begin for 8th and 9th graders on Sunday, February 26. Pastor Andy will be contacting parents soon.

The Junior Youth Group met for a Christmas party at my house with dinner, games, dancing, and fun! We also are scheduled to go bowling during Christmas break on December 27.

Thank you to all who helped support water.org. This is the non-profit organization that the church school is working with to help bring justice to those who need it. So far, with your help, we have helped save 14 lives! Look for more ways to help this year. Peace in the New Year, Jennifer H. Smith, *Director of Children and Youth Ministries*

Facilities Update

Fixit Thursday this month is the first Thursday of the month—January 5. We will meet in Fellowship Hall at 9 am.

The task of revamping two pews in the Sanctuary to comfortably accommodate a wheelchair is nearly complete. There is some painting remaining to be done in the area, as well as ‘fixing’ a wood splinter on the post just to the east of these two pews.

There are several minor tasks to be done to complete the sprucing up of the Nursery and the Music Library Classroom. There is some painting to be done in both rooms, and the hardware on the doors and the baseboard heater covers need to be cleaned.

Starting on Sunday, January 8, and for each following Sunday in January, a table near the west wall windows in Fellowship Hall will contain all those items that have been “left behind” during the past few months. If an item is yours, please take it. Anything remaining at the end of the month will go to HOPE.

In January, there will be a massive kitchen cleanup—all shelves, all dishes, all cups, all whatever. You may be called to help. . . .

In February, there will be a massive Sanctuary cleanup. You may be called to help. . . .

Mal Chase
Facilities Manager

From the Church Office

Church Office hours are Monday through Friday from 9 am to 12 noon. The Office will be closed on Monday, January 2. Pastor Andrew Nagy-Benson will be in the office most mornings, except Tuesdays (his day off).

Staff meetings are held each Monday from 9 to 9:45 am. The phone system is “on” 24 hours a day, so *please* leave us a message if you call during that time.

Items for the weekly bulletin must be in by Wednesday at 9 am each week. *Please respect this deadline.*

HOW TO GET IN TOUCH:

- To reach the Church Office, call 388–7634. Our email address is midducc@comcast.net.
- **To reach Andy for an after-office-hours emergency**, please call his home phone at 545–2535. Andy’s email address is pastorandy27@comcast.net.
- If you have a **facilities issue**, please contact **Mal Chase**. His cell phone number is 989–0037, and his home phone number is 382–9325. His church email is mal.chase@comcast.net.
- Director of Children’s Ministries Jennifer Smith can be reached via email at jsmith1212@comcast.net.
- If you know of someone who is ill, having surgery, has a new baby, or just needs a friendly visit, please contact the Church Office. We would rather hear about things twice than not at all.

JANUARY 2012

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

1 Sun	10:00 AM	Morning Worship, Holy Communion, No Church School, nursery care
	11:00 AM	Fellowship Hour, Fellowship Hall
2 Mon	ALL DAY	Church Office closed
	11:30 AM	Community Lunch Buffet, St. Stephen's Episcopal Church
3 Tue	11:30 AM	Community Lunch Buffet, Charter House dining room
	3:00 PM	Jessica's voice lessons, C.H. piano room
4 Wed	11:30 AM	Community Lunch Buffet, Charter House dining room
5 Thu	9:00 AM	Fix-it Thursday, Fellowship Hall
	11:30 AM	Community Lunch Buffet, Charter House dining room
	7:00 PM	Choir rehearsal, Fellowship Hall
6 Fri	5:00 PM	Community Supper, Fellowship Hall and kitchen
8 Sun	9:00 AM	Choir, Sanctuary
	9:15 AM	Junior Handbell Choir, Choral Library Classroom
	10:00 AM	Morning Worship with Rev. Lee Adkins, Church School, nursery care provided
	11:00 AM	Fellowship Hour, Fellowship Hall
	11:30 AM	Adult Bells rehearsal, Sanctuary Junior Choir, Library classroom
9 Mon	9:00 AM	Staff meeting, C.H. conference room
	11:30 AM	Community Lunch Buffet, St. Stephen's Episcopal Church
10 Tue	11:30 AM	Community Lunch Buffet, Charter House dining room
	3:00 PM	Jessica's voice lessons, C.H. piano room
11 Wed	11:30 AM	Community Lunch Buffet, Charter House dining room

	6:30 PM	Pastoral Relations Comm., Charter House, Andy's office
	6:45PM	Scheduling Summit, Charter House, Grade 5/6 classroom
	7:30 PM	Church Council, Charter House, Grade 5/6 classroom
12 Thu	11:30 AM	Community Lunch Buffet, Charter House dining room
	7:00 PM	Choir rehearsal, Fellowship Hall
13 Fri	5:00 PM	Community Supper, Fellowship Hall and kitchen
15 Sun	9:00 AM	Choir rehearsal, Sanctuary
	9:15 AM	Junior Handbell Choir, Choral Library Classroom
	10:00 AM	Morning Worship, Church School, nursery care provided
	11:00 AM	Fellowship Hour, Fellowship Hall
	11:30 AM	Adult Bells, Sanctuary Junior Choir, Library classroom
16 Mon	9:00 AM	Staff meeting, C.H. conference room
	11:30 AM	Community Lunch Buffet, St. Stephen's Episcopal Church
17 Tue	11:30 AM	Community Lunch Buffet, Charter House dining room
	3:00 PM	Jessica's voice lessons until 7 PM, Charter House piano room
	5:00 PM	Addison Association meeting, Charter House conference room
18 Wed	11:30 AM	Community Lunch Buffet, Charter House dining room
	1:15 PM	Prayer and Peace Gathering, Charter House, Andy's office
19 Thu	11:30 AM	Community Lunch Buffet, Charter House dining room
	12:00 PM	Men's Lunch Group, Rosie's restaurant
	7:00 PM	Choir rehearsal, Fellowship Hall
20 Fri	5:00 PM	Community Supper, Fellowship Hall and kitchen

22 Sun	9:00 AM	Choir, Sanctuary
	9:15 AM	Junior Handbell Choir, Choral Library Classroom
	10:00 AM	Morning Worship, Church School, nursery care provided
	11:00 AM	Fellowship Hour, Fellowship Hall
	11:30 AM	Junior Choir, Choral Library Classroom Adult Handbell Choir, Sanctuary
23 Mon	9:00 AM	Submissions for February issue of <i>Church Matters</i> due to Meg Wallace Staff meeting, C.H. conference room
	11:30 AM	Community Lunch Buffet, St. Stephen's Episcopal Church
24 Tue	11:30 AM	Community Lunch Buffet, Charter House dining room
	3:00 PM	Jessica's voice lessons until 7 PM, Charter House piano room
25 Wed	11:30 AM	Community Lunch Buffet, Charter House dining room
	6:30 PM	Board of Pastoral Care, Nursery
	7:00 PM	All Boards, Fellowship Hall
	7:30 PM	Deacons, Fellowship Hall Trustees, C.H. conference room Membership & Communication, Library classroom Board of Christian Development, C.H., Grade 5/6 classroom Board of Mission and Social Concerns, Charter House piano room
26 Thu	11:30 AM	Community Lunch Buffet, Charter House dining room
	7:00 PM	Choir rehearsal, Sanctuary
27 Fri	5:00 PM	Community Supper, Fellowship Hall and kitchen
28 Sat	4:30 PM	Green Mountain Club, F.H. and kitchen
29 Sun	9:00 AM	Choir, Sanctuary
	9:15 AM	Junior Handbell Choir, Choral Library Classroom

	10:00 AM	Morning Worship, Food Shelf collection, Church School, nursery care provided
	11:00 AM	Annual meeting, Sanctuary
	11:30 AM	Junior Choir, Choral Library Classroom
	12:00 PM	Potluck meal, Fellowship Hall
30 Mon	9:00 AM	Staff meeting, C.H. conference room
31 Tue	11:30 AM	Community Lunch Buffet, Charter House dining room
	3:00 PM	Jessica's voice lessons until 7 PM, Charter House piano room