

# CONGREGATIONAL CRIER



February 23, 2025

*Middlebury Congregational Church*

1242 Whittemore Rd.

Page 1

203-758-2671 • [www.middleburyucc.org](http://www.middleburyucc.org)

Middlebury CT 06762

## **Welcome to Worship**

To keep up with what's going on here at MCC, you can visit our website ([middleburyucc.org](http://middleburyucc.org)), like us on Facebook, follow us on Instagram (@middleburycongregational), and subscribe to our YouTube Channel.

## **Restrooms**

Restrooms are located down the stairs in the Narthex/entrance of the sanctuary. Accessible, single person restrooms, equipped with changing tables, are located on the Upper Level and may be easily accessed using the elevator. The elevator entrance is located through the exit door in the front of the sanctuary on the left. Please ask an usher for directions/assistance.

## **Sunday School & Nursery Childcare**

Children are always welcome in worship. During the school year, Sunday School is available during worship for PreK-7<sup>th</sup> grade. School age children will begin Sunday in worship before heading out together with their teachers in the beginning part of worship. The first Sundays of the month are Communion and Family Sunday and Sunday School will not be in session. Staffed childcare for infants through preschoolers is available in the Nursery throughout the year, which is in the upper level Sunday School. If you need assistance, please ask an usher. For more info about Sunday School and childcare, contact the Church Office: [office@middleburyucc.org](mailto:office@middleburyucc.org)

## **For More Info**

For more information about the church, to sign up for our newsletter please email: ([office@middleburyucc.org](mailto:office@middleburyucc.org))

## **Communion**

Communion is celebrated the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month and is open to all, including children, who wish to grow in faith in Jesus Christ. Communion is served in the pews.

## **This Service is Being Livestreamed**

If you do not want to appear in the video please choose a pew downstairs in the back 5 rows.

## **Hearing Assistance**

We have headphones to assist you in hearing the service. Please let an usher know, and they will set you up with a pair.

# Winter Mission Projects

## **GWIM Food Donations**

Our monthly food contribution to GWIM Soup Kitchen is canned chicken.

## **Mitten Line**

Our mitten line is now set up in the social room, ready for anyone to hang new or gently used mittens, gloves, hats, or scarves for the homeless.

**Call to a Special Meeting of the Congregation:  
Open & Affirming Vote**

A Special Meeting of the Congregation is called for February 23, 2025 in the sanctuary following worship. The purpose of this meeting is to vote on the proposal brought by Church Council for the Middlebury Congregational Church to adopt an Open and Affirming covenant. To participate in the meeting remotely, please email Pastor Katrina for the meeting link ([kmanzi@middleburyucc.org](mailto:kmanzi@middleburyucc.org)).  
Erika Carrington, Clerk

**Seven "I AM" Statements of Jesus: A Discussion  
March 9, 16 & 26, After Worship Services (in Parlor)**

**Questions:** Contact Michele Rowell Finn  
([michfinn@comcast.net](mailto:michfinn@comcast.net))

The Deacons are pleased to host a series of discussions on the seven "I AM" statements of Jesus featured in the Gospel of John. No preparation is necessary on your part to attend these discussions! A guided handout with scripture references will be provided. For each statement, we will review the setting/context in which the statement was made, to whom it was made, what the metaphor implies, its significance, and some tie-ins to other scriptures. Most importantly, we will explore what these statements mean in our continuing relationship with Jesus.

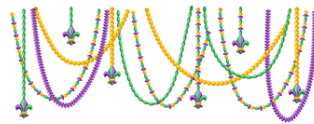
To pique your interest, consider the questions below:

- Did you know that Bethlehem is a Hebrew phrase that means "House of Bread"? What significance might this have given Jesus' place of birth and his "I Am the Bread of Life" statement?
- Can you name which "I Am" statement was made directly and only to a woman? Hint: This woman was gently scolded by Jesus for being impatient when her sister chose to listen to Jesus' teaching rather than help with hosting duties at their home. Yet what does it reveal that Jesus entrusts her with such a profound statement of who he is at such a seemingly devastating moment for her, and her amazing response?

We hope that you will join us for discussion and fellowship!



**JUMPIN'  
JAMBALAYA  
IS READY TO  
ROLL!!**



MCC Social Hall

Dine in or pick up  
10\$ per bowl



**Fat Tuesday**

March 4, 2025

5:00 to 6:30 pm

Our menu is straight from Bourbon Street: a steaming bowl of delicious jambalaya on a bed of rice! Enjoy the New Orleans cuisine and then dance the night away to traditional zydeco music!

**Advanced orders recommended!**

We will prepare extras but don't get left out in the cold. Please contact the church office to leave a message with your preorders at [office@middleburyucc.org](mailto:office@middleburyucc.org) 203-758-2671

Or email Ellen at [spirit2000@aol.com](mailto:spirit2000@aol.com)



**Yoga at MCC!**

**What:** Vinyasa Yoga for all fitness levels  
**Where:** Our Social Hall  
**When:** Mondays @ 5:30 p.m.  
**Why:** Join us and RELAX!  
**How:** Bring a mat and blocks. Bolster, water bottle, strap and blanket are optional. Please dress to move.

Please join us to celebrate

**St. Patrick's Day**

**MILE HIGH CORNED BEEF ON RYE**

Served with coleslaw, chips, and a pickle

**MARCH 16TH**



**\$9**



**Middlebury  
Congregational Church  
11:00 am - 12:30**

**PICK UP ONLY**