

**NO MATTER WHO YOU ARE
OR WHERE YOU ARE
ON LIFE'S JOURNEY
YOU ARE
WELCOME HERE**



**UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
OPEN & AFFIRMING
MIDDLEBURYUCC.ORG**

Middlebury Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
August 23, 2026
Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

*all those who are able please stand

Our worship begins with the Prelude.

Please be mindful of those who wish to spend this time in prayer

PRELUDE

Divertimento

Johann Rinck

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS Liturgist: Michele R. Finn

INTROIT

Adult Choir

This is the day which the Lord hath made;
We will rejoice and be glad in it!

CALL TO WORSHIP

Liturgist

Leader: We gather to seek a vision

People: Be our vision, O Lord of our hearts.

Leader: Be our wisdom, be our true Word.

**People: We trust that you are always with us, and we are
always with you.**

***HYMN**

At the Name of Jesus

Pilgrim Hymnal (Red) #197

INVOCATION (UNISON)

Liturgist

**God of wondrous love, you have touched us and never left us in
despair. You have held us in our grief and chaos. You have
never deserted us. In life and in death, you raise us anew! This
is your word of assurance. God of wondrous love, touch us
again in this time. Be our vision, our wisdom and our true
Word. Stay with us as we worship, as we heal and grow, as we
leave this gathering, in every moment. Amen.**

THE LORD’S PRAYER (UNISON)

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen. [We use “Father” and “trespasses,” but please use whatever words bring you closest to God.]

CALL TO CONFESSION

CONFESSION (UNISON)

God of mercy, we confess that we have not borne the fruit of the Spirit. We have not loved others as you have loved us. We have denied the promises of baptism and cut ourselves off from you. Forgive us, restore us, that we may abide in your love and live out your mercy, for the sake of Jesus Christ, in whose name we now pray in silence. Amen. (Time for individual silent confession)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

You have already been cleansed by the word that God has spoken to you. In baptism God claimed you and joined you to Christ, as branches to a vine. Trust in the promise given to you: In Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. Amen.

***GLORIA PATRI**

Pilgrim Hymnal (Red) #513

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
And to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be:
World without end. Amen. Amen.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

READINGS OF THE HOLY SCRIPTURE

John 14:7-12

“If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”

Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.” Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, but if you do not, then believe because of the works themselves. Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father.

John 15:1-5

“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing.

SERMON

The Rev. Peggy Allen

*HYMN

Be Thou My Vision

Pilgrim Hymnal (Red) #391

JOYS, CONCERNS, & PASTORAL PRAYER

Prayer requests will be received from the congregation. Please be mindful worship is livestreamed, so we advise caution on using last names to preserve people's privacy.

OFFERTORY

Heaven's Jubilee

G.T. Speer

Thomas Zold, tuba

***Doxology in Unison**

Pilgrim Hymnal (Red) #515

Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow;
Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION (UNISON)**

Almighty One, by your grace, accept our offerings. Make us joyful in giving and generous in sharing this offering to a hurting world. Bless both the gifts and the givers that both may serve your church and your children. May your vision be also our vision, and may our offerings help those visions bear good fruit. Amen.

***HYMN**

The Church of Christ, in Every Age New Century Hymnal (Black)
#306

***BENEDICTION**

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE**

Adult Choir

Threefold Amen

POSTLUDE

The Heavens Declare the Glory of God

Benedetto Marcello

Please join us downstairs in the Social Hall after worship for fellowship and refreshments

About the Pastor

Rev. Peggy Allen has served churches in Connecticut since 1989, both as a settled minister and as an interim. She began her ministry with fourteen years in North Guilford, and retired after ten years at the Milton Congregational Church in Litchfield. She has also done interim work in Cheshire, and sabbatical coverage in Monroe, Manchester, Glastonbury, Naugatuck and Plantsville, and parish care ministry at First Church in Glastonbury.

Her wider church responsibilities have included serving as registrar of both the New Haven Association and the New Haven East Consociation, chairing the Litchfield South Association Committee on Church and Ministry and chairing first the Connecticut Conference Committee on Church and Ministry and now the Southern New England Conference Committee on Church and Ministry.

Peggy lives in Cheshire, is married to Ken and has three grown children and two grandchildren.



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DOING GOD'S WORK

The Congregation, *Ministers in the World*
Church Officers & Members of our Boards & Committees

Staff:

The Rev. Katrina Manzi, *Minister*

Donna Obarowski, *Choir Director*

David Obarowski, *Organist*

Diane Barnard, *Bookkeeper/Asst. Treasurer*

Sara Hubbard, *Faith Formation Volunteer Coordinator*

Rebecca Trosan, *Nursery Attendant*

Sarah Kwashnak, *Office Assistant*