

# CONGREGATIONAL CRIER



March 15, 2026  
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*Middlebury Congregational Church*  
203-758-2671 • [www.middleburyucc.org](http://www.middleburyucc.org)

1242 Whittemore Rd.  
Middlebury CT 06762

## Welcome to Worship

We are an Open & Affirming ( LGBTQ affirming) congregation of the United Church of Christ. 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), TikTok (@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. The Nursery is located in the Sunday School on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the building. 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

To get connected or get more info about the church, scan the QR code on the Connect Card in the pew or fill out the card and place it in the offering plate. You may also contact the Church Office ([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

## Soup Kitchen Contribution

Our Monthly food contribution to GWIM will be Gravy.

## Mitten Line

There is always a need for gently used /new socks for the homeless. Also scarves, hats, mittens, gloves, hats are still needed while the weather is cold.

Thank you for all your support.

### Lent Study

#### The Last Things: A Look at Death, the Second Coming, Judgment, the Afterlife, and the End of the World: Wednesdays during Lent in the Social Hall 6:30pm Supper, 7pm Discussion

“The Four Last Things” in Christian theology are Death, Judgment, Heaven, and Hell. These are topics people often have a lot of questions about, and often Mainline Protestants like us tend to talk about them much less than other denominations. So, this Lent we’re going to take a look about what the Bible says about the last things and some of the common views from throughout the history of Church. Bring your questions and curiosity!

**3/18: The Final Judgment:** What does the Bible actually say about the last judgment? Who does the judging? What are we actually judged on? We’ll look at the main scenes of the last judgment in the Bible and some of the ways the Church has understood them.

**3/25: Hell:** A number of people have asked over the years what to think about hell since we don’t talk about it much in worship. So, we will look at some of the main biblical passages about hell and explore some of the traditional and more modern ways the Church has tried to make sense of the question of what happens to evil people and nonbelievers when they die.

**4/1: Heaven:** What does heaven look like? Who goes to heaven? Do we have bodies in heaven? What is eternal life? We’ll look at Bible passages describing heaven and heaven on earth and explore some of the views in the Church on heaven and resurrection.

#### For Further Reading

- *Second Thoughts about the Second Coming: Understanding the End Times, Our Future, and Christian Hope:* by Robert J. Allen and Robert D Cornwall (Westminster John Knox Press)
  - This is an overview of the history of Christian thought on the second coming of Christ and the end times written for a general audience. It gives a really good broad overview of the major views the Church Universal has or had on these topics along with addressing where things come from in scripture.
- *Second Thoughts about Hell: Understanding What We Believe* by Ronald J. Allen and Robert D. Cornwall
  - This is an overview of the biblical origins of hell and the various understandings of hell historically and presently in the Church Universal.
- *Deliver Us from Evil: A Call for Christians to Take Evil Seriously* by John Swinton (Cascade Books)
  - This is a discussion of evil and sin that is fairly accessible and short.

### St. Patrick’s Day Mile-High Corned Beef on Rye — Join Us! ♣

Come celebrate St. Patrick’s Day with us with good food, laughter, and community spirit! Come enjoy a delicious meal of a Mile-High Corned Beef on Rye with traditional sides — we’ll take care of all the cooking so you can simply relax and enjoy.

Whether you bring a corned beef or simply bring your appetite, we would love to have you join Please see our flyer for date, time and details — and thank you for helping us make this gathering a success!

### MCC Classifieds in Church Life

We are starting a classifieds section in the monthly church newsletter. If you want to advertise, offer a service, search for something, sell something, tell everyone about the upcoming play or sports season, etc. this is the place to do it. The deadline for the upcoming April edition of Church Life is 3/20. Email Sarah in the office ([office@middleburyucc.org](mailto:office@middleburyucc.org)) to list something in the classifieds section.

### Liturgists/Ushers – Needed and Appreciated

A heartfelt thank you to all who serve as ushers and liturgists during worship – we are truly grateful! This is a wonderful way to serve at MCC, and no board or committee membership is required. Both roles include clear instructions and support. Liturgists are fully scripted at the pulpit, and ushers are provided guidance so you’ll know what to do. Sign-up sheets are located at the back of the sanctuary. If you’d like to give either role a try, we’re happy to help. Thank you for your consideration!

*MCC Deacons*

### 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.

### Interested in Joining the Church?

If you are interested in joining the church or learning more about MCC, please contact Pastor Katrina ([kmanzi@middleburyucc.org](mailto:kmanzi@middleburyucc.org)).