

NORTH WIND

Rejoicing in the Spirit ~ Celebrating Community

North Congregational Church New Hartford, CT 06057

June 2019



Friends in Christ,

Thank you so much to everyone who worked so enthusiastically and tirelessly to make the Peach Festival such an enjoyable day on the Pine Meadow Green on August 24. The weather couldn't have been better and the many hours you dedicated to this event were a great gift to the

community and the people passing through town who attended. I was deeply touched by the spirit of cooperation and goodwill that you all displayed.

I hope that those of you who came to worship this summer especially enjoyed our joint services with our brothers and sisters in the faith at United Congregational Church in Torrington, the Riverton Congregational Church and on September 1, at St. John's Episcopal Church in Pine Meadow. It was lovely for me to work with three colleagues in ministry and to meet the members of their congregations.

I trust that you, like me, are looking forward to the 2019-2020 program year. We so appreciate the return of our children and youth and the choir back to the life of our congregation.

In addition to the things we usually enjoy, we have much to discuss, namely, the future of North Congregational Church. One of my primary charges as your Designated Pastor is to engage the entire congregation in conversation about our viability. Since the very existence of the church is at stake, it is imperative that each and every member participate in our All-Church Conversations. The first three are scheduled this fall on September 8, October 13 and November 3 following Coffee Hour, so please save these dates. I have provided a document with the questions for the first topic we will be discussing so that you can reflect on them before we gather. Hard copies are available on the table outside the church office and will also be set by attachment in an All-Church email the week of September 1.

Those of you who attended our July conversation will recall that we adopted a Behavioral Covenant. This, we agreed, would and will continue to guide us as we shared and will share our ideas and opinions in a respectful manner during our times together. As a reminder, and for those of you who weren't with us then, it is enclosed in the newsletter.

As always, if you have a pastoral concern, illness, or just want to talk, don't hesitate to contact me. It is particularly important for me to visit you if you are in the hospital.
email: revmoxie3@gmail.com; cell: (860) 965-9093.

Grace and Peace, Marcia

SEPTEMBER SUNDAY SCHEDULE

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 1: Labor Day weekend Sunday
THE TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

9 a.m., Communion

Joint Worship with St. John's Episcopal Church,
Pine Meadow

In the garden at St. John's, in the sanctuary in case of rain



SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8: THE THIRTEENTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST

Rally Sunday, Worship returns to 10 a.m.,
Church School resumes

SERMON: Introduction to our Theme for the Year: CREDO
Beginning at the Beginning, Who Are We,
What do We Believe and Why
Potluck (Please bring a dish to share) and
All-church Visioning Conversation #1
following worship

SEPTEMBER 15: THE FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

SERMON: We Believe in: God

SEPTEMBER 15: Church Council Meeting
following Coffee Hour



SEPTEMBER 22: THE FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

SERMON: Who was Jesus?

SEPTEMBER 29: THE SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

SERMON: What is the Bible?



SAVE THE DATE: SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6
NOON AT OUR CHURCH
FOR THE ENTIRE COMMUNITY

Invite your friends and neighbors!
Please bring animals on leashes or in cages.



Adult Classes

Begin on Wednesday, September 18
10 a.m. at church

This fall, rather than having the traditional mid-week Bible studies, I'd like to try something different. In the course of conversations with many of you, I've observed that there are a variety of understandings about basic tenets of the Christian Faith. So, I'd like to begin at the beginning, as it were, and, as I myself did in seminary, explore a variety of understandings of

concepts such as God, Jesus, the Bible, Sin, The Virgin birth, the Church, being Born Again, the Atonement, Heaven and Hell. These may sound dull and too academic, but I think you will be surprised at how interesting you will find them.

For a number of Sundays, I will be preaching on these topics and in our mid-week classes you will have the opportunity to reflect on the issues that were raised. I'm calling this series CREDO ("I believe"), and I'm hoping that it will you expand your knowledge as a Christian and enable you to articulate your faith more clearly. In addition, I'm hoping that these discussions will make our All-Church Visioning conversations more meaningful as we decide whether or not it is important for North Church to be a presence in New Hartford as member of the United Church of Christ.

-WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18: 10 a.m. ADULT EDUCATION: CREDO

What we believe and why: Conversation about Sunday's sermon topic: God

-WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25: 10 a.m. ADULT EDUCATION: CREDO

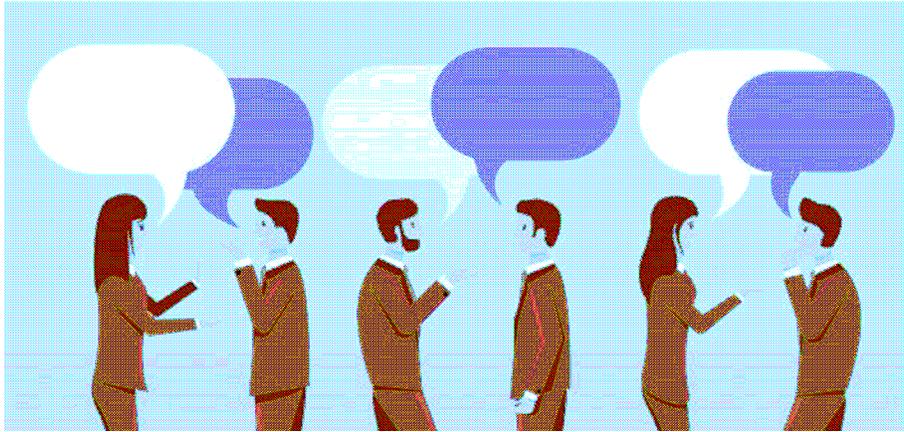
What we believe and why: Conversation about Sunday's sermon topic: Jesus



If you haven't noticed, Cele and Dave Hoffman come to church early most Sunday mornings to prepare the sanctuary and Fellowship Hall for worship and Coffee Hour, and with help from Fellowship Committee members, Karen Hotchkiss and Mark Perillo, clean up afterwards. We are so grateful to them for this ministry.

Coffee Hour refreshments are provided by members of all of our church Committees, each committee being assigned for a month. Coffee supplies and some additional refreshments are made possible through monetary donations from the members of the congregation, so please make periodic contributions to the Donations basket near the coffee pot. If you are not serving on a committee and would like to host a Coffee Hour, please speak with Cele Hoffman.

Refreshments for Coffee Hour during the month of September are provided by the members of the Christian Education Committee.



BEHAVIORAL COVENANT
presented by The Rev. Marcia Cox
ADOPTED BY THE CHURCH COUNCIL AT NORTH CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
NEW HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT ON AUGUST 18, 2019
to guide our interactions during meetings and especially during our
All-Church Visioning Conversations

But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love. -Ephesians 4: 15-16

- Our purpose is to promote understanding for the upbuilding of the body of Christ.
- We will take time for prayer, seeking God's will.
- We will foster an environment of safety and mutual respect and treat each other with care as God's beloved children.
- We will talk one at a time.
- We will use "I" language and speak from our own experience (as opposed to saying, "people are saying X, Y and Z").
- We will express thoughts that come from direct, observable data, as opposed to hearsay.
- We will be as honest as we can and not be afraid to share an idea even though it might not seem to be a perspective held by the majority. The Holy Spirit works in surprising ways!
- We will not dominate conversations, and generally leave space for anyone who wants to speak for the first time before we speak for a second (or third) time.
- We will attempt to hear one another out, and, if necessary, in order to clarify our understanding, repeat what another has said or ask questions.
- While we affirm that passion can be energizing, we agree not to raise our voices in anger or display bullying behavior since doing so is frightening and hurtful.
- We will hold ourselves accountable if our words and actions do not exemplify the covenant behaviors set forth here, understanding that, should they not, it may be necessary for us to take a "time out" or leave a meeting entirely.
- We will forgive each other and ourselves when we break this covenant, giving each of our members the opportunity to learn, grow and try again.

(sources: The 2004 Annual Meeting of the Connecticut Conference of the United Church of Christ; The Church of the Pilgrimage, Northford, Connecticut; Thompson Congregational Church, Thompson Connecticut; several ideas/rewordings from Marcia Cox and edits from the Council.)



Communication at NCC

As we explore various possibilities for our future as a church, clear communication will be more important than ever. Please review the following ways in which we communicate with one another in our church family.

- **Person to Person:** Our revised “Behavioral Covenant”, which was introduced at our July all-church Conversation and slightly revised and approved at the August Council Meeting, offers excellent guidelines for communicating with respect and kindness for one another. Please take a moment to read through the covenant, which is included in this month’s newsletter, and let’s all do our best to abide by it.
- **Committees to Wider Church Family:** Committee chairs retain copies of committee meeting minutes. Summaries of their reports are also included in the monthly Church Council minutes. Please contact the appropriate chair if you would like to review a copy or have questions related to that committee’s work. Committee meeting dates are to be posted on the paper calendar on the counter between the kitchen and the hallway.
- **Council to Wider Church Family:** Per our Bylaws, “all Council meetings are open to members of NCC, with the exception of executive sessions, when held by vote of the Council. Employees and guests may be invited to attend Council”. Minutes of Council meetings are posted on the bulletin board outside of the Fellowship Hall.
- **Northwind:** Our monthly newsletter contains a message from our pastor, reports from Committee chairs and announcements of church events.

In addition, if you are planning an event, please complete an “Event Proposal Form”, available in the office. Once the event has been approved by Council, please communicate with Dave McCunn, who will post the event on our website: <https://northchurchucc.com/>, and with our church secretary, Suzanne, who will include appropriate notices in the all-church weekly email, the announcements section in our service bulletin, and on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/North-Congregational-Church-New-Hartford-CT-116455478394011/>. If you wish to make an announcement at the beginning of a worship service, please use the microphone so that members with hearing difficulty can hear clearly.

Thank you!

Fran Herman



September 2019

I hope you have managed to find time to relax and enjoy the summer months. I am feeling rejuvenated after my break and am ready to start choir rehearsals in preparation for the opening of the season on Rally Day.

First of all, I'd like to thank Holly McCann for her wonderful keyboard music this summer. She is an excellent musician and I know she was much appreciated.

This year the choir will meet on Wednesdays from 7:00-8:30pm. The first rehearsal will be on Wednesday, September 4th. If you enjoy singing please consider joining this welcoming and caring group. We have a lot of fun as we work on our music old and new!

There is still a lot of planning to be done in the next few weeks. I'm meeting with Rev. Marcia to plan music around the themes she has selected for the month and we will be planning dates for upcoming music events.

The old as well as the new hymnals are in the pews so that we can have a wider selection of hymns. I'm looking forward to learning some more of the newer hymns, many of which were previously used as inserts.

I am excited about starting a new year and would like to end with the words of this anthem:

Sing a New Song to the Lord

Join to rejoice, lift up your voice, sing a new song to the Lord!
Harmonies fair, filling the air, sing a new song to the Lord!
Let one and all answer the call: music and melody raise;
God to adore, forevermore with joyful anthems of praise!

Natalie Sleeth

Shirley McCunn
Organist/Choir Director

North Wind

North Congregational Church

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Worship.Church School Sundays 10:00 a.m.

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North Congregational Church, New Hartford, CT

STAFF:

The Rev. Marcia Lynn Cox, Designated Pastor

Shirley McCunn, Organist & Director of Music

Suzanne Czerwinski, Secretary

Nicole Misko, Director of Children's Ministries

Dave Holcomb, Sexton



September Birthdays

Jane King	5 th
Nolan Zenuh	10 th
Carol Heath	13 th
Suzanne Czerwinski	16 th
Thomas Barbieri	22 nd
Donna Howard	27 th