

LOOKING AHEAD

November 13	11:00 am 5:00 pm 8:00 pm	Deacon's Meeting Soup Kitchen AA
November 14	5:15 pm	Scouts – Lions & Tigers
November 15	6:30 pm	Scouts – Arrows of Light
November 16	6:00 pm	Scouts – Bear Den
November 17	10:00 am 7:00 pm	Back Pack Program Scouts – Pack Meeting
November 18	8:15 am	Coffee Hours at The Villager
November 20	10:00 am 11:00 am 4:00 pm 5:00 pm 8:00 pm	Worship – Stewardship Dedication Church Clean-up Thanksgiving Interfaith Service at DRCC Soup Kitchen AA

NOTES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome! No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here at the United Church of Chester, an Open and Affirming Church and a member of the United Church of Christ. **The United Church of Chester is centered in Christ's love, embracing, nurturing, serving all, and committed to justice and peace.**

Advent Wreath Lighting Volunteers Needed – We are looking for 5 families or groups to participate in the annual Advent Wreath lighting ceremony. The dates are November 27, December 4, 11, 18 and Christmas Eve. See Alan or the church office if interested.

This month's deacon is **Barbara-Jan Wilson**. Flowers are provided by **Barbara-Jan Wilson and Tim Napier** with 'Thanks for our democracy'. Our greeter this morning is **Marian Bairstow**.

ALAN'S OFFICE HOURS: Wednesday-Friday 8:30 am-12:30 pm, other times by appointment

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS: Tuesday-Friday 9am-1pm.

Communitarianism: a philosophy that emphasizes the connection between the individual and the community. "The Puritans should be seen as astute progenitors of a generous and communitarian strain of American politics." (Harper's Magazine, September 28, 2022)

The United Church of Chester

An Open and Affirming Church

November 13, 2022



Reverend W. Alan Froggatt, Pastor & Teacher
Every Member of the Congregation, Ministers
Karli Gilbertson, Music Director and Organist

Post Office Box 383, Chester, Connecticut 06412 860-526-2697
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THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHESTER

An Open & Affirming Congregation of
The United Church of Christ
November 13, 2022 10:00 a.m.
Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost

PREPARATION FOR THE WORD

WELCOME Barbara-Jan Wilson, Deacon

PRELUDE *Impromptu on Jesus Loves Me* C. Callahan

INTROIT *Lord Listen To Your Children Praying* K. Medema

CALL TO WORSHIP

Dear children of the Beloved: this is no ordinary place; this is the house of God.

This is the place where the prophets cry out for peace, justice and righteousness.

This is the place where our ancestors raised a sanctuary and a community; where our heirs will learn the legacy of faithfulness and fruitful service.

This is the place where God reaches down into the corners of our lives to offer us the mystery of holy love.

This is no ordinary place: this is the house of God.

We are no ordinary people: we are the children of the Beloved, come to worship and give thanks for God's presence and blessing, within us and among us. Amen.

*HYMN *Community of Christ* 502

INVOCATION

Grant us, Lord God, a vision of your world as your love would have it: a world where the weak are protected, and none go hungry or are poor; a world where the riches of creation are shared, and everyone can enjoy them; a world where different races and cultures live in harmony and mutual respect; a world where peace is built with justice, and justice is guided by love. Give us the inspiration and courage to build such a world, O God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON Matthew 14.13-21

Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

ANTHEM *Ancient Words* L. DeShazo/M. McDonald

FROM THE DEAD SEA SCROLLS 1 Qumran Scroll 1

SERMON *"Christian Communitarianism"* Rev W. Alan Froggatt
"All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need."
(Acts 2.44-45)

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

ANTHEM *You are God, You are the Lord* Cherubini/Hopson

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER & LORD'S PRAYER (*"trespasses"*)

POEM *To All My Friends* May Yang (Hautie)

*HYMN *Blest Be the Tie That Binds* 368

*BLESSING & BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE *Lead Me Lord* S. Wesley

Community of Christ

Community of Christ, who make the cross your own, live out your creed and risk your life for God alone: the God who wears your face, to whom all words belong, whose children are of every race and every song.

Community of Christ, look past the church's door and see the homeless, see the hungry, and the poor. Take hands with the oppressed, the jobless in your street, take towel and water, that you wash your neighbor's feet.

Community of Christ, through whom the word must sound – cry out for justice and for peace the whole world round: disarm the powers that war and all that can destroy, turn bombs to bread, and tears of anguish into joy.

When menace melts away, so shall God's will be done, the climate of the world be peace and Christ its Sun; our currency be love and kindness our law, our food and faith be shared as one for evermore.

Blest Be the Tie That Binds

Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love; the fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.

Before God's gracious throne we pour our ardent prayers; our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our comforts and our cares.

We share each other's woes, each other's burdens bear, and often for each other flows the sympathizing tear.

When we are called to part it gives us inward pain, but we shall still be joined in heart, and hope to meet again.