LOOKING AHEAD

July 2	5:00 pm	Soup Kitchen	July 7	**8:15 am**	**Coffice Hours at The Villager**
July 4	Office Closed		July 9	**9:00 am** 5:00 pm	**Worship** Soup Kitchen
July 6	8:30 am	Yoga			

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**.

The Deacon for the month of July is **Diane Adams.** Our Greeter for today is **Laurel Johnson**. Flowers on the altar were provided by **Laurel Johnson** in memory of **Scott Johnson.** Coffee hour is being hosted by **Jane Zanardi**.

Reminder: Lady Doak donations will continue to be accepted until July 10th.

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

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

The United Church of Chester

An Open and Affirming Church

July 2, 2023

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
E-mail: unitedchester@uccchester.org web site: www.uccchester.org

THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHESTER

An Open & Affirming Congregation of
The United Church of Christ
July 2, 2023, 10:00 a.m.
Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

WELCOME — Diane Adams, Deacon

PRELUDE — *Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer* — J. Hughes arr B. Culli

INTROIT — *Let The Words of My Mouth* — W. Weirsbe

CALL TO WORSHIP — (from Galatians 4 & 5)

For freedom Christ has set us free:
We will stand firm and not submit again to the yoke of slavery.
We are no longer children of the law,
But now we are heirs of the promise through Jesus Christ.
At one time we were children of the flesh and of desire;
Now we are children of the Spirit, children of freedom, children of God. Amen.

* HYMN — *God of the Ages, Whose Almighty Hand* — 537

*INVOCATION

Lord, be the light to our eyes, the music to our ears, the sweetness to our taste, the contentment of our hearts. Be the sunshine to our day, our food at table, our repose in the night, our comfort and succor in all necessities. Lord, we give you ourselves: body and soul and substance; fame and friends, liberty and life. Employ us, and all we have, as is pleasing to you, and to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON — I Peter 2.6-10 — (p.1106)

For it stands in scripture: 'Look, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious; and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.' To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe, 'The stone that the builders rejected has become the very head of the corner', and 'A stone that makes them stumble, and a rock that makes them fall.' They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

ANTHEM — *Lascia ch'io Pianga* — G.F. Handel
Alan Froggatt (violin)

FROM THE APOSTOLIC WRITINGS — Didache 15

SERMON — *"One Church's Gift to the Nation"*

"But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light."
(I Peter 2.9)

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

OFFERTORY — *Goin' Home* — American Folk Tune, A. Dvorak

*DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom all blessings flow / Praise God all creatures here below
Praise God for all that love has done / Creator, Christ and Spirit, One. Amen

JOYS AND CONCERNS

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

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

POEM — *The New Colossus* — Emma Lazarus, 1883

*HYMN — *O Beautiful for Spacious Skies* — 532

*BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE — *Lord, Let Us Now Depart in Peace* — G. Whelpton