LOOKING AHEAD

August 21	5:00 pm	Soup Kitchen
	8:00 pm	AA
August 26	**8:15 am**	**Coffice hours at The Villager**
August 28	**9:00 am**	**Worship**
	5:00 pm	Soup Kitchen
	8:00 pm	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**.

The Deacon for August is **Michele Procko.** Flowers are given on the altar by **Ed and Eileen Sypher** in memory of their mother Elsie Sypher. Our Greeter for today is **Daphne Stitt.**

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

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

"Nobody knows for sure. But people undoubtedly get feelings which are not explainable and they feel they're talking to God or they're talking to their parents who are long dead. I feel most spiritual when I'm out in the woods. I feel part of nature. Or looking up at the stars. [I used to say] I was an atheist. Now I say, it's all according to your definition of God. According to my definition of God, I'm not an atheist. Because I think God is everything. Whenever I open my eyes I'm looking at God. Whenever I'm listening to something I'm listening to God. I've had preachers of the gospel, Presbyterians and Methodists, saying, "Pete, I feel that you are a very spiritual person." And maybe I am. I feel strongly that I'm trying to raise people's spirits to get together. ... I tell people I don't think God is an old white man with a long white beard and no navel; nor do I think God is an old black woman with white hair and no navel. But I think God is literally everything, because I don't believe that something can come out of nothing. And so there's always been something. Always is a long time."

Pete Seeger, when asked about his beliefs and ideas about God

The United Church of Chester

An Open and Affirming Church

August 21, 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
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
August 21, 2022 9:00 a.m.
Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

PREPARATION FOR THE WORD

WELCOME

PRELUDE *L'Harmonie des Anges* Burgmuller

INTROIT *Love God With Your Heart* (folk melody)

CALL TO WORSHIP
People of God, let our hearts be full, for a new morning has dawned.
A new day has been born, and we are newly alive to enjoy it.
We know the beauty of God's creation and the wonder of the human family.
We remember those whose love has shaped our lives and whose presence has overcome our loneliness.
We gather as the church to worship God, to share prayers and gifts, and to pledge ourselves to God's work in the world.
May God bless us in this hour, so that what we do here may be honest, sacred, and filled with hope. Amen.

*HYMN *Here in This Place* 250

INVOCATION Michele Procko, Deacon
Still-speaking God, help us to hear what you are saying to us, not just this morning but every day of our lives. Teach us to listen beyond the words of the scriptures, the melody of our music and the prayers of our own lips. By the power of your Holy Spirit, teach us to hear what you say to us in the silences, in the pauses and ellipses of everyday discourse, that your Word made flesh might appear to us in the tiny moments in between all our busyness. We ask this for our sakes and in the name of the incarnate Word, Jesus the righteous One; Amen.

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Ecclesiastes 3.1-15
For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:
a time to be born, and a time to die;
a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;
a time to kill, and a time to heal;
a time to break down, and a time to build up;
a time to weep, and a time to laugh;
a time to mourn, and a time to dance;
a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together;
a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;
a time to seek, and a time to lose;
a time to keep, and a time to throw away;
a time to tear, and a time to sew;
a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;
a time to love, and a time to hate;
a time for war, and a time for peace.

ANTHEM *Turn, Turn, Turn* Pete Seeger

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON III John 1-8, 11-15

SERMON *"Holy Hedonism"* Rev W. Alan Froggatt
(Overlooked and Underpreached VI)
"I know that there is nothing better for us than to be happy and enjoy ourselves as long as we live; moreover, it is God's gift that everyone should eat and drink and take pleasure in all our toil."
Ecclesiastes 3.12-13

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

JOYS AND CONCERNS

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

POEM *To My Old Brown Earth* Pete Seeger, 1958

*HYMN *For the Beauty of the Earth* 54

BLESSING & BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE *May the Lord, Mighty God*

Here in This Place

Here in this place, the new light is streaming, now the dark night has vanished away. See in this space our fears and our dreamings, brought here to you in the light of this day. Gather us in, the lost and forsaken; gather us in; our spirits inflame. Call to us now, and we shall awaken; we shall arise at the sound of our name.

We are the young, our lives are a mystery; we are the old, who yearn for your face. We have been sung throughout all of history, called to be light to the whole human race. Gather us in, the rich and the haughty; gather us in, the proud and the strong; give us a heart so meek and so lowly; give us the courage to enter the song.

Here we receive new life in your waters; here we receive the bread of new birth; here you shall call your sons and your daughters, call us anew to be salt for the earth. Give us to drink the wine of compassion, give us to eat the bread that is you; nourish us well, and teach us to fashion lives that are holy and hearts that are true.

Not just in buildings, small and confining, not in some heaven, light years away, here is this place the new light is shining; now is God present, and now is the day. Gather us in and hold us forever; gather us in and make us your own; gather us in, all peoples together, fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

For the Beauty of the Earth

For the beauty of the earth, for the splendor of the skies, for the love which from our birth over and around us lies, Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

For the beauty of each hour of the day and of the night, hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of light, Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's delight, for the mystic harmony linking sense to sound and sight, Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child, friends on earth, and friends above, for all gentle thoughts and mild, Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

For each perfect gift of thine unto us so freely given, graces, human and divine, flowers of earth and buds of heaven, Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.