LOOKING AHEAD

August 7	5:00 pm	Soup Kitchen
	8:00 pm	AA
August 12	**8:15 am**	**No coffice hours this week**
August 14	**9:00 am**	**Worship**
	10:00 am	**Deacon's Meeting**
	5:00 pm	Soup Kitchen
	8:00 pm	AA

NOTES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jeff Birch is a student at Lexington Theological Seminary in Kentucky, where he studies online. He is a Member in Discernment at The First Congregational Church in Essex, and the Student Paster at Niantic Community Church. His seminary journey follows a long career in the US Navy and the energy sector as a nuclear power specialist. He and his partner, Mike, live in East Lyme with their two cats.

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. Claudia Epright** is your Greeter today. **Diane Lindsay** gave flowers for the altar in celebration of her children's birthdays this week. Happy Birthday Mark and Mary!

ALAN IS ON VACATION THIS WEEK

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

The United Church of Chester

An Open and Affirming Church

August 7, 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 7, 2022 9:00 a.m.
Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

PREPARATION FOR THE WORD

PRELUDE — *Flute Solo and Gigue* — G. F. Handel

INTROIT — *Be Still and Know That I Am God* — (anonymous)

CALL TO WORSHIP — (Joanna Harader)

Why are we here?
Not to show that we are wonderful people,
but to become better people.
To strengthen our spirits as we seek to live out God's call:
Say no to wrong.
Learn to do good.
Work for justice.
Help the down-and-out.
Stand up for the homeless.
Give voice to the defenseless.
May this time of worship bear fruit for the Kingdom of God. Amen.

*HYMN — *Your Love, O God* — 73

INVOCATION — Michele Procko, Deacon

God, this is your world; we are but brief inhabitants on it. Be with us today as we open our hearts and minds to hear the word anew, and to then understand anew how you would have us be. We are open to your presence, God. Shine your light on the path, and lead us unto your righteousness. Amen.

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON — Isaiah 1.10-20

ANTHEM — *Thy Word Is Like a Garden* — (Irish Melody arr. by K. Kaiser)

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON — Mark 11.15-19

SERMON — *"Lean Towards Love"* — Mr. Jeffrey Birch

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

JOYS AND CONCERNS

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

ANTHEM — *Lord, Listen To Your Children* — Ken Medema
Sung by Jeff Birch — arr Jack Schrader

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

*HYMN — *Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah* — 102

BLESSING & BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE — *God Be With You* — T. Dorsey and A. Hutchins

Your Love, O God

Your love, O God, is broad like beach and meadow, wide as the wind, and our eternal home. You leave us free to seek you or reject you, you give us room to answer "yes" or "no."

Refrain: Your love, O god, is broad like beach and meadow, wide as the wind, and our eternal home.

We long for freedom where our truest being is given hope and courage to unfold. We seek in freedom space and scope for dreaming, and look for ground where trees and plants can grow.

Refrain

But there are walls that keep us all divided; we fence each other in with hate and war. Fear is the bricks and mortar of our prison, our pride of self, the prison coat we wear.

Refrain

Judge us, O God, and in your judgment free us, and set our feet in freedom's open space; take us as far as your compassion wanders among the children of the human race.

Refrain

Guide me, O Thou Great Jehovah

Guide me, O though great Jehovah, pilgrim through this barren land; I am weak, but thou art mighty; hold me with they powerful hand. Bread of heaven, bread of heaven, feed me till I want no more; feed me till I want no more.

Open now the crystal fountain, whence the healing stream doth flow; let the fire and cloudy pillar lead me all my journey through. Strong deliverer, strong deliverer, be though still my strength and shield; be thou still may strength and shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan, bid my anxious fears subside; lead me on through death's destruction, land me safe on Canaan's side. Songs of praises, songs of praises, I will ever give to thee; I will ever give to thee.