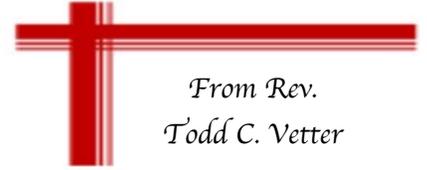


# The Meetinghouse News

The First Congregational Church of Madison

May 2018



Easter has passed. But the Resurrection is all around us. The sun is (mostly) out. People are returning north. New shoots of life are sprouting.

*From Rev.  
Todd C. Vetter*

In a very real sense, Easter never passes. In the practice of the ancient church, each Sunday was understood as a small reenactment of Easter; because Christ never ceases to rise and never ceases to invite the church to rise with him.

Each year, the season of Easter presents us with stories from scripture in which the risen Jesus meet his disciples or in which the church is seized by the presence of the Holy Spirit and authorized to carry on the work of renewal, restoration and resurrection God has begun in Christ.

The German theologian Jurgen Moltmann writes that the resurrection is not in any sense a private promise. It never speaks exclusively about the hereafter. Easter is the celebration of God's spirit that constantly courses through our veins and impels us out into the world. Easter is the time when we attune ourselves to the presence of God who meets our deepest yearnings for meaning and purpose, who promises life when so much of the world seems mired in death, or fear, or confusion, or anger.

Easter is the realized hope that through the power of God's love and mercy, the Church can change its world, bring sustenance to its community, fellowship to its neighbors, healing and wholeness to the broken both within and outside its doors.

In John's gospel, the risen Christ comes into a room filled with his grieving disciples. The windows are shut. The doors are locked. They have heard the news of the resurrection, but still they remain rooted in place, paralyzed by fear. A word of peace and a breath of the spirit animates them and sends them out. The church that is able to walk in step with the lead of God's Spirit is the church that thrives.

Win Arn is a consultant who has worked with dozens of churches over the years. And he has interviewed thousands of Christians to invite their reflection on a simple question: Why are we here? Why does the church exist?

Out of his research and his conversations with church members, Arn came up with a metaphor to describe, imperfectly it must be said, one challenge facing churches today.

He suggests that churches fall into two broad categories: *Bib Churches* and *Apron Churches*. *Bib Churches* tend to look inward are those who devoted most of their time and energy into serving themselves, while *Apron Churches* are determined to find ways of their serving their communities. *Bib Churches* can be sources of great and very real comfort to their members, who feel very much at home in worship and fellowship. But in looking inward, *Bib Churches* can struggle to be truly welcoming and hospitable to new people coming through their doors.

In *Apron Churches*, people orient towards service, towards finding those ways in which their passions, talents, interests and gifts might be shared to serve God ... and also enrich their own lives with a renewed sense of purpose and meaning.

Jesus said famously and probably a little provocatively that he came not be served, but to serve, to pour out his life in the service of God and God's people.

As Easter flows into the season of Pentecost, we are well-served ourselves to consider how the Spirit invites each one of us to consider our own, unique gifts for service to our community; and communicate our desire to engage with God in the ongoing work of bringing new life out of the Good News.

Peace,  
Todd

## *Call to Annual Congregation Meeting*

To the members of the First Congregational Church of Madison, CT, Pursuant to the By-Laws of the Church:

The Annual Congregation Meeting of the First Congregational Church of Madison, CT will be held on Sunday, June 3, 2018 in the Meetinghouse immediately following the Church Service, to:

1. Receive and act upon the reports of the Committees, Boards, Officers and Organizations of the church.
2. Elect new Board members
3. Ratify the Board Moderator, Treasurer, Board Clerk and Assistant Treasurer
4. Ratify the chairs or co-chairs and members of the Diaconate and Standing Committees

Attest: Sharon Fisher, Clerk of the Church

Dated: April 13, 2018

## *Message from the Board: a call for candidates*

On June 3, we will hold our Annual Congregation Meeting. The agenda is to elect members of our Board including the officers of the church, along with members of our Diaconate and committees. (The Annual Congregation Meeting is usually held on the third Sunday in May, but this year, that is Pentecost Sunday and Confirmation Sunday with a reception following. The Board, under its authority granted in the By-Laws, agreed to hold the Annual Congregation Meeting on June 3.)

Your Board believes it is time to become much more active in defining and implementing the kind of church we want to be in the future. Our senior minister, Todd Vetter, has been with us for almost two years now, and he has developed a strong sense of our opportunities and needs. At our Annual Budget Meeting in January, we agreed to invest in our future by creating the Minister of Community Life position, and we hope to have that filled soon. We have been implementing our new governance structure and practices and we're learning how to operate effectively with it. Now, we have the foundations to begin the work of becoming our future deliberately, rather than passively.

Your new Board is the place in our church structure where the leadership for this effort will come from. So if you have a burning desire to help shape our vision for the future, and make it happen, you should consider becoming a Board member.

And we also would like to see new faces in all of our ministries. Do you have ideas for our mission and projects in outreach to the larger world? Do you like to plan adult educational activities and teach children and youth? Would you like to help lead the spiritual life of the church? Maybe you like to balance budgets and manage investments? Plan construction projects? Throw a party? We've got a place for you! There are spots open and available on our committees that help lead the life of the church.

If you are interested or would like more information, please see any member of the Board. Thank you.

Your Lay Leadership Board: Peggy Antenucci, Doug Ewers (Moderator), Sharon Fisher (Clerk), Barnaby Mortensen, Hank Robbins (Treasurer), Jeff Swiggett, Susan Wenderoth

### *Williams-Morgan Scholarship*



### **Attention High School Seniors!**

The Williams-Morgan Scholarship

Applications are available in the church office starting April 15, 2018.

The scholarship is based on community and church involvement and is available to all HS seniors with an award of approximately \$1,000.00 per year for four years.

Applications will be due back to the office by May 20th. Applicants will be notified of a decision no later than June 3rd. The award will be presented on Children's Sunday, June 17th.

Please contact Sue Timony-Hall with questions:

[stimonyhall@hotmail.com](mailto:stimonyhall@hotmail.com) or by phone at 203-843-6206.

## FCC Youth Happenings



Please share your child's extracurricular schedule (plays, games, concerts, etc.) and academic/extracurricular achievements so we can support their efforts and celebrate them within our church community. Please email Sue at [stimonyhall@hotmail.com](mailto:stimonyhall@hotmail.com) to share special events and achievement with us or fill out the form in the weekly bulletin and return it in the offertory plate.

We will share the dates and times of events in the following week's bulletin to invite church members to cheer your child on. We will also list achievements so that we may extend congratulations to your child as well.

Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Achievement/Event: \_\_\_\_\_

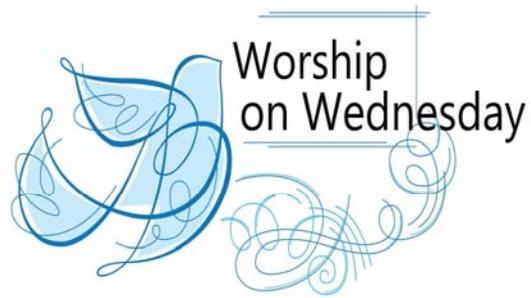
\_\_\_\_\_

When: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Where: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



Worship on Wednesday will be held on **May 16th** at 7:30 p.m. in the Chapel. Fellow church member **Norman Dolph**, who served on Todd's search committee, will give the message on "**Rewriting the Lord's Prayer**".

**The biography:** Norman Dolph: Born, Tulsa, schooled, New Haven, lives NYC and Madison; at FCC Madison since 1999. Computer software developer, songwriter, painter, disco owner, record producer, author at various times with varying degrees of success. Happy to be blessed, alive, well, well-married, and plain-ole-happy.

**The talk:** A few weeks ago, the Pope made an interesting observation. He seems like a good and insightful guy, but I don't generally keep up with the Pope much, one way or the other. But this gem caught my eye... his thoughts relative to "The Lord's Prayer". I thought. "BY JOVE, I think he's right!", that this topic needs some fresh, 21st century study. The sermonette will attempt a little of this. In the interest of ecumenical balance, I hope to share an interesting point regarding prayer, learned while attending Chabad services with my wife Eve. You'll never say The Lord's Prayer again, aloud or in reflective silence, without thinking: "Hmmm... I wonder, would God feel offended if I changed a word or two here and there? Is this what He really intended? Did the translators get it wrong?" We report... you decide.

Participants are needed to share readings, prayers, and songs. Contact [alisonhubleby@gmail.com](mailto:alisonhubleby@gmail.com) if you can help.

## *Strawberry Jazz on the Madison Green*

*June 9th from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.*



The proceeds will benefit our Outreach Missions, as well as other church functions.

There will be vendors, artists, authors, civic organizations, nonprofits, travel booths as well as children's activities and a dunking booth with town dignitaries and much, much more. A local Jazz Trio, the Daniel Hand HS Jazz band as well as the Tuesday Jazz Trio will be performing. In the area of food, Strawberry shortcake will be featured, along with hamburgers, hot dogs, and Snow Cones.

For further information go to [www.fccmadison.org](http://www.fccmadison.org) or call Kathleen Bidney -Singewald, 203-245-2739 EXT 100

## *Livingston Taylor Concert at FCC*

*June 9th at 7:30 p.m.*

Known for his comfortable and entertaining stage presence, Folk Pop legend Livingston Taylor is an expert at drawing the audience into his music. He has enjoyed a lustrous career in music as a singer-songwriter since the release of his self-titled debut in 1970 and critically acclaimed second release, *Liv*. His concerts often range from original works spanning folk, country, bluegrass and blues genres to an occasional rock cover or Broadway classic.

Livingston Taylor will be coming to Madison, CT in support of his latest release, "Safe Home"!

A "Meet and Greet" will be held 5-7pm, prior to the concert, at the Madison Beach Hotel for \$40 - space is limited.

Tickets to Livingston Taylor are \$25, \$35, \$45 and \$55

For reservations and seating chart go to: [www.fccmadison.org](http://www.fccmadison.org)

We are updating our mailing lists again.

If you receive a printed version of this newsletter by mail and do not want it, or if you prefer to receive it on-line, please send an email to the church office with your request to [mainoffice@fccmadison.org](mailto:mainoffice@fccmadison.org)

# The First Congregational Church of Madison

26 Meetinghouse Lane, Madison, CT 06443  
Overlooking the Green

Non-profit  
U.S. Postage  
Paid  
Guilford, CT  
Permit #271

Change  
Service  
Requested

## The Meetinghouse News May 2018

### Sunday Worship Service

10:00 a.m.

In the Meetinghouse  
Communion Served First  
Sunday of Each Month

Our Worship Service is broadcast on Madison Access TV Channel 18, Sunday at noon and at other times, check their listings.

### Sunday School

*During Service*

The Rev. Todd C. Vetter  
*Senior Minister*

**Phone:** 203-245-2739  
**Fax:** 203-245-3341  
**E-mail:** [mainoffice@fccmadison.org](mailto:mainoffice@fccmadison.org)  
**Website:** [www.fccmadison.org](http://www.fccmadison.org)  
**Facebook:** First Congregational Church of Madison, CT  
**Church Office Hours:**  
9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Monday - Friday



**GO.BE.LOVE.**

