



## Main Street Congregational Church, United Church of Christ

No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey,

Come, experience God's love.

Go, serve God's world.

The Congregation  
Reverend Joan MacPherson  
Danny Smith

Ministers  
Pastor and Teacher  
Music Minister

***Ninth Sunday after Pentecost***

***10:00 AM***

***July 30th, 2023***

### Prelude

Here I am to worship, Here I am to bow down, Here I am to say that you're my God.

You're altogether lovely, Altogether worthy, Altogether wonderful to me

*For your love so broad and welcoming can heal the world's deep suffering*

### Congregational Introit

Lead on eternal Sovereign, we follow not with fear,  
For in each human conflict your words of strength we hear;  
That when we serve with gladness, you will not let us fall,  
Our trust is in your promise that love will conquer all.

### Words of Welcome

#### Call to Worship

written by the Rev Susan Gleason In Spirit and Truth

One: We gather as God's own:

**Many: wanderers and wonderers,**

One: hungry for good news,

**Many: thirsting for renewal.**

One: We hold out our hands,

**Many: We lift up our hearts;**

One: we give praise and thanks to the One who made us, claims us, and encourages us.

**Many: Let us worship and give thanks to our Creator, Redeemer and Guide**

#### Hymn

Alleluia Hear God's Story  
*Please see the last page (back)*

One license #707872

#### Opening Prayer

adapted from *Patterns of our Days*, Kathy Galloway

**O God, you speak through your prophets with words which hold and challenge us and keep us on the path of justice: come and tell us the truths we need to know and write them in our hearts and lives. O Pilgrim God, abandoning that which is no longer needed: come with us on our journey, show us how to travel lightly keeping only what we need to grow. O Wind of God, blow through the holes in our defenses and lay bare our fear: Come, breathe on us as you did at the beginning, bringing life and binding us together as your church following in the way of Jesus who taught us to pray...**

## Lord's Prayer

*\*please use the address to God that feels right for you*

**Our Father/Mother/Creator\*, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

## Gloria

Gloria, Gloria, in excelsis Deo  
Gloria, Gloria, alleluia, alleluia

One license #707872

## Story for All Ages

## Anthem

## Joys, Concerns, Prayers for the World

*Our prayer list: family and friends of JoAnn Chapman (Elizabeth Watson's sister), Steve Belmonte, Bob Hunt, Betty Currier, Billy Buxton, Ralph Neal, Don Hall, Julie, Rosie Cashman, Marie Robert, Bill Pretty, Don, Dee Morse; Dave Simoneau, Judy Smith, Sue Apple, Kevin McAuley, Dianne Legg, Cindy Foster, Jess More, Church, Mel, Anne Mary, Kurt Farnsworth and all living with cancer; Ukraine, Russie Haiti*

## Hymn

I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me

One license #707872

I'm gonna live so God can use me, anytime Lord and anywhere  
I'm gonna live so God can use me, anytime, Lord and anywhere

I'm gonna work so God can use me...

I'm gonna pray so God can use me...

I'm gonna sing so God can use me...

## Reading from our Sacred Story

Luke 2:41-51

Al Mackie

## Sermon

Community, Commitment, Curiosity

Rev. Joan MacPherson

## Offertory

*Baskets are passed to all in worship. Your offering can be a prayer, a financial gift, a drawing, etc. Other options for financial gifts include mailing a check to the church, using your financial institution's online bill pay, and the Venmo mobile app (Venmo ID @mainstreetchurch). Donations go to the general ministry of the church, unless specified otherwise by donor(s).*

## Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow  
Praise God all creatures here below  
Praise God above ye heav'nly host  
Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost. Amen.

## Hymn

In the Midst of New Dimensions

One license #707872

*Please see the next page*

# In the Midst of New Dimensions

391

Julian Rush, 1985; alt.

Gen. 9:12-16; Exod. 13:21-22; Num. 14:14

C C/B F C F Am7 Dm7 G7sus4 G7

1 In the midst of new di-men-sions, in the face of chang-ing ways,  
 2 Through the flood of starv-ing peo - ple, war-ring fac-tions and de - spair,  
 3 As we stand a world di - vid - ed by our own self - seek - ing schemes,  
 4 We are man and we are wom-an, all per-sua-sions, old and young,  
 5 Should the threats of dire pre-dic-tions cause us to with - draw in pain,

C C/B F C F Am7 Dm7 G C

Who will lead the pil-grim peo - ples wan-dering in their sep - arate ways?  
 Who will lift the ol - ive branch-es? Who will light the flame of care?  
 Grant that we, your glob - al vil - lage, might en - vi - sion wid - er dreams.  
 Each a gift in your cre - a - tion, each a love song to be sung.  
 May your blaz-ing phoe-nix spir - it res - ur - rect the church a - gain.

*Refrain*  
 Am Em F C F C G7 C Dsus4 D7 G7sus4 G7 Am

God of rain-bow, fier - y pil - lar, lead-ing where the ea-gles soar, We your

Em F C F C/E F C/E F C/E Dm7 G7 C

peo-ple, ours the jour-ney now and ev - er, now and ev - er, now and ev - er - more.

## Commissioning and Benediction

### Benediction Response

Carry your candle, run to the darkness  
 Seek out the hopeless, confused and torn  
 Hold out your candle, for all to see it  
 Take your candle, go light your world  
 Take your candle, go light your world.

**Participating in Worship Today:**

**Deacon Cathy Young**

**Technology Anne Bourbeau**

### Announcements

## Summer Cycling Family Night + FREE PIZZA

This Thursday, August 3rd ~ 5-7 p.m.

BareWolf Brewing ~ 12 Oakland St. Amesbury (rain or shine)



### SUMMER CYCLING FAMILY NIGHT

Bring your kids and neighbors for a **FREE**

#### COMMUNITY EVENT

- Family friendly ride on the rail trail (under 2 miles)
- Kids' bicycle safety checks & tips
- Crafts and games
- Pizza and prizes!



Open to all ages!



Thursday, August 3, 2023  
 5:00 - 7:00 PM  
 BareWolf Brewing  
 12 Oakland Street  
 Amesbury, MA 01913

RAIN OR SHINE



[www.emmausinc.org](http://www.emmausinc.org) | <https://give.emmausinc.org/cycle> 2023 | 978-241-3425

Come out to BareWolf Brewing for this free community event! There will be free pizza, free entry to drawings for prizes, reduced registration fees for families who register for Cycle for Shelter during the event, bicycle safety tips and a guided rail-trail ride led by our own Charlie Monroe and Susan Gleason!

Missions at Main Street will be running a bike decorating station and are looking for donations of stickers, streamers or other decorations! Email Anne Bourbeau at [abourbeau@gmail.com](mailto:abourbeau@gmail.com) if you are interested in making a donation.

Invite your friends and neighbors! We look forward to seeing a great turn out from Main Street Church!

**1 - 3 p.m. TOMORROW, Monday July 31st**  
**Knitting Group in the Webster Room of the Parish House**



### Collecting Water for Main Street Baptisms

For many years our baptismal water has been the (purified) combined collection of water you brought back from places that matter to you. We want to add more of that water into the mix. We invite you to gather water over the summer days and hang on to it until the Sunday after Labor Day. On that Sunday we welcome you to bring in 2-4 oz of water and add it in with the special water collected from others in the community.

## Announcements Continued

### **An Update on the Parish House Offer from Church Moderator, Lee Ford**

Tuesday morning Anne Bourbeau and I met with Chris Horan, the developer who has made an offer to purchase our Parish House. We asked him some questions that many of the congregation have been asking. The first, and most important, was for an extension on the deadline for the offer. Chris generously extended the deadline until October 1, 2023.

Hopefully this will give us enough time for many discussions, input from the congregation, and an eventual vote. Chris is also willing to give us a plot sketch, showing approximately where he envisions lot lines and parking for the remodeled building. Should we vote to sell the building, all of the particulars would be specified in a purchase and sale agreement.

Chris will meet with the congregation, show us the sketch, answer any questions and speak to concerns people might have. The remodel of the vestry building is a separate issue, which will be discussed and planned at a later date if and when we vote to sell the Parish House. As always, please feel free to contact any member of the Executive Council with comments and questions.

Lee Ford, Moderator

Exec. Council: Anne Bourbeau, Brian Cressey, Heidi Fram, David Frick, Susan Gleason, Charlie Monroe, Evelyn Olson, Elizabeth Watson, Arlyn Weieneth, Kay Weiner



**August 19 Beach Cleanup on Salisbury Beach**  
 Meet next to Ground Swell Surf Cafe  
 25 Broadway at 9am  
 Trash bags + gloves provided. Bring family + friends!  
 Help keep our beaches clean!  
 Participants will also receive a same day 20% discount  
 coupon to Ground Swell, Joe's Playland, Salisbury Discount  
 House or Willey's Scoops and Sweets!

### **Cycle for Shelter September 17th**

For those who would like to bike! You can join Team *Two Tired to Ride* in support of The Emmaus House. On the cool fall day of Sunday, September 17th - get on your bike and join in the Emmaus Cycle for Shelter. There are lots of mileage choices. For details talk with Charlie Monroe or email him at [cmonroe55@gmail.com](mailto:cmonroe55@gmail.com)





## Step Up Sally NEEDS YOU!

Sign-up to volunteer in the shop Wednesdays and Saturdays! Please? Use the link or QR code below to view and select sign-up dates and times! We appreciate your help! <https://signup.com/client/invitation2/secure/1087025720404784049/false#/invitation>

Thank you so much for awarding me the scholarship. Main Street Church has provided me with an amazing community. I am so grateful for everything the church has given me. I expect the church will be part of my life for many more years.

Thanks again,  
Sadie ♡



## Save the Date

October 13-14, 2023

Topic: *Wondering in the Wilderness*

More info + registration in September

Questions? Contact Sandy 603-828-8908

or Carmen 978-430-2911

## Potential Vermont Flooding Recovery Trip

Reach out to Joan or Missions Team members if interested in volunteering or receiving information as it becomes available

Missions reached out to All Hands and Hearts as their organization works in Vermont. We hoped to send a team in August but good news for the recovery work - volunteer opportunities are full for August already! We are waiting to hear if assistance will be needed in September. We also let the United Church of Christ VT Conference know we are ready to assist when/if needed.

If you are interested in being a part of that kind of recovery work in Vermont, please let someone on Missions or Joan know. When opportunities arise we will let you know and work on a plan. Thank you for your care and compassion! To read more about All Hands and Hearts recovery work in VT, use this link  
<https://sites.google.com/allhandsandhearts.org/northeastfloodrelief/home>



## VOICES UNITED:



COMING FALL 2023

## CALLING ALL VOICES!

First rehearsal for "Voices United: Together Again" will be Wednesday, September 13th at 6:30pm At Main Street Cong Church UCC in Amesbury.

OPEN CALL. NO AUDITION NECESSARY.

Concert Dates: 11/17, 11/18, 12/1, and 12/2

Full Chorus commitment: 8 selections only. (memorized)

Rehearsals every Wednesday in Amesbury 6:30-9:30

RSVP to [voxofdistinction@comcast.net](mailto:voxofdistinction@comcast.net)

**Missions at Main St. is collecting can tabs in the back of the sanctuary. Tabs will be sent to Shriners Burn Hospital and then sold by the truckload to pay for patient care**



Privacy & Facebook Live: Worship service is broadcast and posted to Facebook. If you are concerned about your privacy, please inform Joan or one of our deacons and we will notify the camera operator.

**Main Street Church**  
**Venmo Mobile App ID**  
**@mainstreetchurch QR Code:**



**Main Street Congregational Church United Church of Christ**  
 145 Main Street, Amesbury, MA 01913 | 978-388-0982 | [www.main-street-church.org](http://www.main-street-church.org)

330

## Alleluia! Hear God's Story

G D G G/B C D7 G

1. Al - le - lu - ia! Hear God's sto - ry, still un - fold - ing with each dawn.
2. Al - le - lu - ia! Sing the sto - ry; God's great faith - ful - ness pro - claim.
3. Al - le - lu - ia! Dance the sto - ry; ev - 'ry sin - ew now en - gage.

D7 G D7 G G/B C D7 G

Taste the wine and bod - y bro - ken: God's cre - a - tive love lives on.  
 Tell of proph - ets and a - pos - tles; sing the pow'r of Je - sus' name.  
 Teth - ered close in truth - ful wor - ship, bold - ly face the com - ing age.

C Am D Bm Em Am Dsus D

Who the neigh - bor? Who the hun - gry? Who is thirst - y for sha - lom?  
 Who the neigh - bor? Who the list - 'ner? Who has ears to hear our song?  
 Who the neigh - bor? Who the watch - ful? Who will wel - come life's em - brace?

G Am D7 Em Bm G/B C G/D D7 G

God of jour - ney, in your sto - ry; lead us, with the neigh - bor, home.  
 God of his - t'ry, tune our voic - es, make our hope - ful wit - ness strong.  
 God of gos - pel, tell the sto - ry through our danc - ing of your grace.