

Family Church of Connecticut - September 3rd

Denthew Learey
September 3, 2026



Dear,

Happy Thursday,

It is hard for me to know what to say, or what to write at the moment. We are most certainly going through a winter season at the moment. *[Holy Mother Han was just sentenced to two years in prison in S Korea.]* I encourage you all to pray and reflect on what we can do to bring comfort to Mother and how we can unite more closely in doing what she asks for us. President Dunkley's sermon was good and it helps us have the right heart and mindset moving forward, here is the video from last weeks sermon. www.youtube.com/watch?v=wsf82Y0Jkpg. Give it another watch if you haven't already and take some time to see what we can do during this time.

In light of this, we had a online summit, some pastors with the regional leadership and Demian and it was good. Demian's focus is now completely on the communities and strengthening our foundation. Seeing how we can move forward and make substantial impact. How our communities, and us in Connecticut, can really support and care for our members while also guiding them and everyone around us to understand their identity as our Heavenly Parent and True Parents children. And clearing obstacles and making changes to help our communities achieve that.

Lastly, Demian expressed again the importance of our relationship with Christianity and Christian churches and how we can work together more but also how we can truly overcome our barriers. And so we are asked again to attend live a continental level sermon to walk in step with that heart. This time its the same time as our service since its in the Central Time Zone, so please come at 11 AM as our regular service. Demian will be speaking at a church in Tennessee alongside our brother Wess Morgan. I'm sure it will be a powerful service and we will be attending alongside all our brothers and sisters across the continent and once again setting a good condition of heart as a nation for our True Mother.

This week again is our Local Council Elections and we will be voting in person for the four open spots for our council. We encourage everyone to vote!

We currently have six candidates and their applications are linked below for church members to consider when they cast their vote. **The six candidates are: Jack Corley, Gabriel Sanfrancesco, Micas Wetherall, Matt Evans, Mika Rothstein and Jenn Perkins.** There applications can be found by clicking the button below. There are 4 openings on the Local Council to be filled. Each adult church member will be able to cast a private ballot for up to 4 of the candidates.

Love you all, see you this Sunday!

Pastor Denthew

Candidate Profiles

Join a Small Group

Small Groups are starting up, don't miss out to dive deeper into oneself in these groups!

The purpose of these small groups is to give everyone a chance to go deeper in their life of faith and to share openly and honestly about what is happening in your life and in your relationship with God and True Parents. We hope these groups can become spaces where we can be real with one another and begin overcoming the shadows and struggles we may have been carrying for a long time. So that we can open ourselves up and listen clearly to our conscience and the direction its trying to guide us.

Our small group facilitators will be:

- Stephan and Constance Gabb
- Bruce and Setsue Clarke
- Steven and Colleen Boyd
- Richard and Koonam Park

Small Group sign up!



[Link to the Service](#)

What’s Coming Up?

- September 6th - Continental Service, Demian Dunkley and Wess Morgan (11 AM) - Japanese Food Team
- September 13th - Sermon by Denthew (11 AM) - International Team
- September 20th - Fall fest at Belvedere (10 AM) - Festival from 10AM-4PM
- September 27th - Intergenerational Service (11 AM) - Potluck



Watch to see what is happening around the world.



Fall Festival!

Enjoy a weekend with brothers and sisters before the cold sets in.

Fri. October 16 — Sun. October 18

Theme: Seeking the Origin

Sometimes we need a refreshing experience away from everything to find a new perspective, and get back to our best, God-given selves.

But ultimately it will be a nice weekend with many young families, young adults and the time away from everything to prepare for the end of 2026.

@ Camp Shehaqua in PA, registration and more information attached to the button below.

[Information](#)

HOME BASE

"Original Value"

by Jacob Navarro



FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 4TH

dinner 6 pm | program 7 pm
78 Demott Ave, Clifton, NJ 07011



Also featuring a testimony
from Hannah Lewis



FAMILY
FED USA

Spanish

Family Workshop

Latino Community



*The Ideal Family
God's Dream*

*Saturday, September 12
10:00 AM - 4:00 PM
723 S Broadway
Tarrytown, NY 10591*

*Join us to learn together
how to create ideal
families and achieve a
world of peace. Everyone
is welcome.*

**BUILDING HOMES OF PEACE, ONE
FAMILY AT A TIME. WE WELCOME YOU
WITH OPEN ARMS!**

The venue is fully accessible. Please
contact us in advance regarding any
requirements.

For more information: Marina Falconi: (347) 358-3949 / Mónica Vallejo: (631) 639-8310





Time to become the Temple of God

Join Gabriel Sanfrancesco this saturday at 9 AM to become the ideal human through becoming super fit! this is open to anyone who has a desire to be active with your brothers and sisters. the meeting place is the Sanfrancesco's house at 165 Chapel St, Stratford, CT 06614. Let him know if you plan to come by sending his number 203224 8093 a text.

Zoom Link for Service!



Please use this link on Sunday at 11:00 to participate in our live stream Sunday Service:
us06web.zoom.us/j/82629866496?pwd=rcmHvmFbGcGn09Dvh83pE1glGC72Rb.1



Previous Sermons are [Available on our Website](#)

We are now posting recordings of Sunday Sermons on our Family Church of CT Website

Make your donation to the Family Church of Connecticut online

You can use the [Church Center App](#) to update your profile, manage and review all your donation activity at: familyct.churchcenter.com/home

DONATE ONLINE

Newsletter

Find out about our community at our FamilyChurchofCT.org Website

Please [Like us on FaceBook](#) and [leave a review](#) on Google so other's can find us.

Click the link below to signup for our weekly newsletter

NEWSLETTER



we are the
**FAMILY CHURCH OF
CONNECTICUT**

A diverse, international community
of faith working towards a more
peaceful world through loving families.

Family Church of Connecticut

Church Council Candidate Application Form

Make a copy of this Google doc before you fill it out

Name:	Gabriel Sanfrancesco
Street Address:	165 Chapel Street
City, ST, Zip	Stratford CT, 06614
Phone	203-224-8093
Email:	blopsco244@gmail.com
Provide a brief biographical essay on your relationship to the Unification Church and the CT Family Church Community (type below)	
This content will be posted online for members to read before the elections.	
Grew up in the community, want to join the council to contribute to my community and involve more second Gen.	

Family Church of Connecticut

Briefly describe your desire to serve on the Church Council (type below)	
The Church Council conducts its activity in monthly meetings. Would you be available to attend these meetings for a two-year term?	☒ Yes ☐ No
The Primary responsibility of a Church Council member is to attend meetings, engage in discussion, listening to others and articulating one's own viewpoint on issues related to governance of the Church community. Are you willing to take on this responsibility?	☒ Yes ☐ No
Print form and sign and/or email to election committee chair: Bruce Clarke: rbclarke03@gmail.com	Date: 8/16/26

If elected to the Church Council, it is expected that you would sign and uphold the following Council Oath:

I, grew, as an elected member of the Local Council of the Connecticut Chapter of the Family Federation for World Peace and Unification, pledge to uphold the faith of Unificationism and the example of its Founders Rev. Sun Myung Moon and Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon and work in my role as a Council Member to support our pastor, Church leadership and the spiritual and physical well-being of our community of faith in its activities and the accomplishment of the Tribal Messiah mission. I will uphold the National Charter and recognize it as the reference point for the Council's role in local Church governance.

Family Church of Connecticut

Church Council Candidate Application Form

Name:	Jennifer Perkins
Street Address:	285 Lafayette St.
City, ST, Zip	Bridgeport CT 06604
Phone	845-499-7266
Email:	jenniferperkins836@gmail.com
Provide a brief biographical essay on your relationship to the Unification Church and the CT Family Church Community (type below)	
This content will be posted online for members to read before the elections.	
Hello! My name is Jennifer, and I am 33 years old. I am a 2nd generation raised in the Belvedere Family Community in New York. I had and witnessed a wide variety of joyful and painful experiences growing up ^{in this movement} but have always found grounding through the lifestyle and culture our community has created. I have participated in many different ministries, ^{including} at the church council in Belvedere 2 years at BCHA, and am now Blessed to Juan Morales as we build our next chapters of life here in CT. I currently work as a high school counselor at BIA where I coach students through the post-secondary planning process.	

Family Church of Connecticut

Briefly describe your desire to serve on the Church Council (type below)

When Hector asked me to run for the council, I felt the nudge. Juan has found his way to contribute substantially to this community and I saw this as my opportunity to do the same. I look forward to continue getting to know this community and to support initiatives that will allow it to and me to grow closer to God's vision.
Whether I am elected or not, this is my heart and my commitment.

The Church Council conducts its activity in monthly meetings. Would you be available to attend these meetings for a two-year term?

☒ Yes ☐ No

The Primary responsibility of a Church Council member is to attend meetings, engage in discussion, listening to others and articulating one's own viewpoint on issues related to governance of the Church community. Are you willing to take on this responsibility?

☒ Yes ☐ No

Print form and sign and/or email to election committee chair:

Date:

Bruce Clarke: rbclarke03@gmail.com

If elected to the Church Council, it is expected that you would sign and uphold the following Council Oath:

I, Jennifer Perkins as an elected member of the Local Council of the Connecticut Chapter of the Family Federation for World Peace and Unification, pledge to uphold the faith of Unificationism and the example of its Founders Rev. Sun Myung Moon and Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon and work in my role as a Council Member to support our pastor, Church leadership and the spiritual and physical well-being of our community of faith in its activities and the accomplishment of the Tribal Messiah mission. I will uphold the National Charter and recognize it as the reference point for the Council's role in local Church governance.

Family Church of Connecticut

Church Council Candidate Application Form

Make a copy of this Google doc before you fill it out

Name:	Jack Corley
Street Address:	285 Lafayette St. Apt 207
City, ST, Zip	Bridgeport
Phone	(475) 319-0028
Email:	jrnccorley@gmail.com
Provide a brief biographical essay on your relationship to the Unification Church and the CT Family Church Community (type below)	
This content will be posted online for members to read before the elections.	
I was born in Ireland on August 2, 1953 and hold dual Irish and American citizenship. On August 26, 1973 I joined the UC while doing temporary work in the UK and just reached my 53rd year as a UC member. I was Blessed to Renee Corley on January 12, 1989 and we have one son, Nikolai Corley and one grandson, Leo. (We both were Blessed originally in MSG in 1982 to other partners and are therefore part of the 2075 Blessing Group.) My missions have been as follows: 1973 - 1975 Witnessing, fundraising and community leader in the UK 1975 – 1978 International One World Crusade (IOWC) in Germany, France and Italy 1978 – 1983 Education programmes in the UK 1983 – Jan/June National Director Ireland 1983 - 1988 IOWC and State Director in US 1989 – 1990 Itinerant Worker in Asia (13 countries in South and Southeast Asia) 1990 – 2006 Working in USSR/Russia, Mongolia and China 2006 – 2009 Assistant to Dr Walsh at UPF International Headquarters, in Tarrytown 2009 – 2012 UC National Director Ireland 2012 – 2015 UC National Director UK 2015 – 2017 European Continental Director 2017 – 2025 Eastern Europe sub-regional director 2026 - Now Renee and I returned to the US at the end of February and now reside with our son, Nikolai.	

Family Church of Connecticut

Briefly describe your desire to serve on the Church Council (type below)	
Although I am officially retired from public missions, I would like to support the Community based on my experiences in the mission fields. I would particularly like to support the younger generation leaders,	
The Church Council conducts its activity in monthly meetings. Would you be available to attend these meetings for a two-year term?	☒ Yes ☐ No
The Primary responsibility of a Church Council member is to attend meetings, engage in discussion, listening to others and articulating one's own viewpoint on issues related to governance of the Church community. Are you willing to take on this responsibility?	☒ Yes ☐ No
Print form and sign and/or email to election committee chair: Bruce Clarke: rbclarke03@gmail.com	Date: 08/26/2026

If elected to the Church Council, it is expected that you would sign and uphold the following Council Oath:

I, Jack Corley, as an elected member of the Local Council of the Connecticut Chapter of the Family Federation for World Peace and Unification, pledge to uphold the faith of Unificationism and the example of its Founders Rev. Sun Myung Moon and Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon and work in my role as a Council Member to support our pastor, Church leadership and the spiritual and physical well-being of our community of faith in its activities and the accomplishment of the Tribal Messiah mission. I will uphold the National Charter and recognize it as the reference point for the Council's role in local Church governance.

Family Church of Connecticut

Church Council Candidate Application Form

Make a copy of this Google doc before you fill it out

Name:	Micas Wetherall
Street Address:	904 East Broadway
City, ST, Zip	Stratford, CT, 06615
Phone	203-260-4307
Email:	wetherallmicas03@gmail.com
Provide a brief biographical essay on your relationship to the Unification Church and the CT Family Church Community (type below)	
This content will be posted online for members to read before the elections.	
Hello everyone. My name is Micas Wetherall. I am a second generation member who is 23 years old and just graduated from the University of Bridgeport with a bachelor's in Computer Science. I was born and raised in the Connecticut Family Church and I have been actively helping the community for the past 5 years as the main computer person for Sunday Service (you may have seen me in the tech closet running the lyric slides on Sundays). After graduating from Bridgeport International Academy, I decided to dedicate a year to the church and do Generation Peace Academy. This was an opportunity to grow my faith and learn more about our movement and its beliefs. Since then, I've been helping out at youth workshops for first, second, and third generation kids (I may have even staffed some of your children) and volunteering for our local youth group, SLAM. Now that I've graduated from university, I think it's time that I start helping more, which is why I want to join the church council.	

Family Church of Connecticut

Briefly describe your desire to serve on the Church Council (type below)	
Growing up in this movement, I've always had a desire to give back to a community that has given so much to me. This is the reason I decided to volunteer my time for the tech on Sundays. But I feel that it's time I do more. I feel that as a second gen member in my early 20's, I have the opportunity to talk to and understand the viewpoint of the younger members who may feel more excluded. I believe that if I were to join the council, I could be a voice for them and hopefully find a way to work together with the first gen to have them be more involved. Having the opportunity to visit other communities around the country has also given me the chance to see what works for some churches and what doesn't, and how we could implement ideas from other communities in our local church.	
The Church Council conducts its activity in monthly meetings. Would you be available to attend these meetings for a two-year term?	☒ Yes ☐ No
The Primary responsibility of a Church Council member is to attend meetings, engage in discussion, listening to others and articulating one's own viewpoint on issues related to governance of the Church community. Are you willing to take on this responsibility?	☒ Yes ☐ No
Print form and sign and/or email to election committee chair: Bruce Clarke: rbclarke03@gmail.com	Date: 8/24/2026

If elected to the Church Council, it is expected that you would sign and uphold the following Council Oath:

I, Micas Wetherall, as an elected member of the Local Council of the Connecticut Chapter of the Family Federation for World Peace and Unification, pledge to uphold the faith of Unificationism and the example of its Founders Rev. Sun Myung Moon and Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon and work in my role as a Council Member to support our pastor, Church leadership and the spiritual and physical well-being of our community of faith in its activities and the accomplishment of the Tribal Messiah mission. I will uphold the National Charter and recognize it as the reference point for the Council's role in local Church governance.

Family Church of Connecticut

Church Council Candidate Application Form

Name:	Matthew Evans
Street Address:	285 Lafayette street
City, ST, Zip	Bridgeport CT 06604
Phone	203 526 7511
Email:	mattevans1216@gmail.com
Provide a brief biographical essay on your relationship to the Unification Church and the CT Family Church Community (type below)	
This content will be posted online for members to read before the elections.	
I met the church when I was around 12-13 years old. I grew up during that time learning a lot about the church's values and traditions and felt a calling to follow the path of the movement. I learned a lot since then and eventually deciding to move here to Connecticut. I really feel that community is one of the most important things in our movement and I think I would really enjoy being a bigger part in the one we have here. I've been here for since 2020 and have felt so much love and really want to give back to it in this way.	

Family Church of Connecticut

Briefly describe your desire to serve on the Church Council (type below)

I wish to serve on the Council because I want to give back to the community in a meaningful way. I want to be able to offer my perspective & insight regarding church decisions and see the kind of differences I can make. It would mean a lot to me if I could help the community that took care of me for 6 or so years grow to new heights.

The Church Council conducts its activity in monthly meetings. Would you be available to attend these meetings for a two-year term?

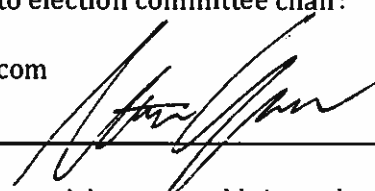
☒ Yes ☐ No

The Primary responsibility of a Church Council member is to attend meetings, engage in discussion, listening to others and articulating one's own viewpoint on issues related to governance of the Church community. Are you willing to take on this responsibility?

☒ Yes ☐ No

Print form and sign and/or email to election committee chair:

Bruce Clarke: rbclarke03@gmail.com



Date:

8/25/2026

If elected to the Church Council, it is expected that you would sign and uphold the following Council Oath:

I, Matthew Evans, as an elected member of the Local Council of the Connecticut Chapter of the Family Federation for World Peace and Unification, pledge to uphold the faith of Unificationism and the example of its Founders Rev. Sun Myung Moon and Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon and work in my role as a Council Member to support our pastor, Church leadership and the spiritual and physical well-being of our community of faith in its activities and the accomplishment of the Tribal Messiah mission. I will uphold the National Charter and recognize it as the reference point for the Council's role in local Church governance.

Family Church of Connecticut

Church Council Candidate Application Form

Name:	Mika Rothstein
Street Address:	285 Lafayette St.
City, ST, Zip	Bridgeport, CT 06604
Phone	703-407-6708
Email:	mrothstein@gmail.com

Provide a brief biographical essay on your relationship to the Unification Church and the CT Family Church Community (type below)

This content will be posted online for members to read before the elections.

Hi, I'm Mika! I'm a second Gen and was born into the movement. Though, during my early years I was distant for a while but I still valued the community and longed for a sense of belonging. I never gave up on my quest to be a part of this faith community because I always felt comfortable and at home within this movement.

Recently, I had the privilege of being the assistant pastor for the Belvedere Family community for about 4 years. I felt inspired and called to contribute and give back to my community. That feeling has not changed.

I truly value the meaning of community, connection and supporting one another through life, prayer and faith. I have only been a part of the CT church for a few months now but I intend to contribute to create a community where we feel at home together.

Family Church of Connecticut

Briefly describe your desire to serve on the Church Council (type below)

I would like to be on the Council because I want to support the CT community and pastor Kenneth. I feel it is a meaningful way to be involved, to give back and to make a difference for the good of everyone. I hope to have this opportunity to share my insights but also learn more deeply about the CT community as well.

The Church Council conducts its activity in monthly meetings. Would you be available to attend these meetings for a two-year term?

☒ Yes ☐ No

The Primary responsibility of a Church Council member is to attend meetings, engage in discussion, listening to others and articulating one's own viewpoint on issues related to governance of the Church community. Are you willing to take on this responsibility?

☒ Yes ☐ No

Print form and sign and/or email to election committee chair:

Bruce Clarke: rbclarke03@gmail.com

Signature

Date: 8/25/26

If elected to the Church Council, it is expected that you would sign and uphold the following Council Oath:

I, Mika Rahnstein, as an elected member of the Local Council of the Connecticut Chapter of the Family Federation for World Peace and Unification, pledge to uphold the faith of Unificationism and the example of its Founders Rev. Sun Myung Moon and Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon and work in my role as a Council Member to support our pastor, Church leadership and the spiritual and physical well-being of our community of faith in its activities and the accomplishment of the Tribal Messiah mission. I will uphold the National Charter and recognize it as the reference point for the Council's role in local Church governance.



2026 Fall Festival Schedule & Info



Shehaqua Fall Festival

Fri. October 16 — Sun. October 18

Theme: Seeking the Origin

Sometimes we need a refreshing experience away from everything to find a new perspective, and get back to our best, God-given selves. Weekend will be centered around:

- Having Fun! Building and deepening friendships
- Accepting and letting go of the parts of us that hurt others, actively or through absence, "I want to be the best version of my Self"
- Opportunities to reflect about the Divine, to feel grounded and peaceful, and maybe feel God directly

[Register Here, Prices Increase On Sep. 7](#)

[See Who's Coming](#)

The Fall Fest Team:

Director: Kester Wilkening

Assistant Directors: William Curry, Ben Hess, Tyde Tallakson

Media Team: Lianna Curry, Lillian Hess

Head Cook: Leila Johnson

And You! We're all in it together

Schedule

Friday, October 16

5:30pm - Arrival & Set up your cabin

6:30pm - Dinner

8:00pm - Bonfire, Open Mic, Hot Apple Cider (Feel free to prepare a song, poem, joke, etc.!)

Saturday, October 17

8:00am - Breakfast

9:30am - Education: Seeking the Origin

- Kids: Curriculum will be similar to typical Shehaqua education, centered on our Theme
- Young Adults: Priority is time to connect, with a facilitator to offer some initial thoughts centered on our Theme
- Adults: Topics based on our Theme and attendee presenters, examples: Spirituality, Making Lots of \$\$, Marriage, Wins & Fails as a Parent, etc.

12:00pm - Lunch

1:30pm - 3:30pm Craft Stations & Sports



- Candle dipping, volleyball, leaf art, pumpkin carving / painting, nature hike, trail race.
- Activities will be **whichever things people want to lead**, share during registration!

3:30pm - 5:30pm Family Fun "Night"

- Teams of families competing in fun activities, things like log toss, sack racing, mini games, etc.

5:30pm - Dinner

6:30pm - Hoedown (Square dancing - Plaid & Cowboy Fits welcome!)

Sunday, October 18

8:00am - Breakfast

9:00am - Education in Families: Seeking the Origin

- Time for families to do education together, with some facilitation to get started

10:00am - Break Down Camp Together!

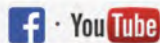
- This is an important part of Shehaqua culture, many hands make light work :)

11:30am - Depart (no lunch provided)

[Register Here, Prices Increase On Sep. 7](#)

Remember to Bring

- Weather: Please check the weather for White Haven, PA prior to coming, it can be quite cold this time of year (or it could be 50's, variable).
- Warm Clothes! Weather-appropriate clothing for outdoor activities.
- Warm sleeping bag or blankets.
- **DRESS UP FOR HOEDOWN:** Country attire (plaid shirts, long skirts, boots, hats, handkerchief, suspenders, etc :). Bring some spare to share!
- [Full Packing List](#)



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