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Monroe, CT 06468

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Office Hours:
Mon. & Wed. 9 am – 5:30 pm
Fri. 9am – 5 pm

Senior Pastor: Rev. Jennifer Gingras
Director of Faith Formation: Debi Mastroni-Kenyon
Music Director: Will Duchon
Administrator/Bookkeeper: Diane Prall
Church e-mail: secretary@mcc-ucc.org

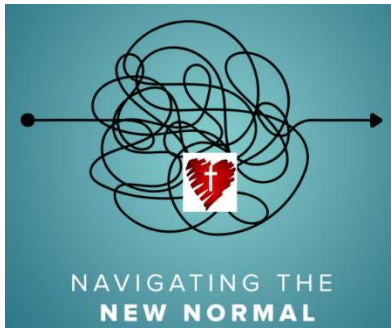


THE MONROE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

STEEPLE

Find us on YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/monroecongregationalchurchucc>

June 1, 2020



Phasing Forward at MCC

Hello Church! This month, I've been working with our church's leadership on determining what a return to in-person, public worship would look like. I've been reading and listening to all the recommendations, from the Center for Disease Control to denominational authorities, to the Town of Monroe health department.

Early in this pandemic, it was determined that sanctuaries are one of the hotbeds of potential contagion for this and other airborne respiratory diseases. There are many reasons for this. In an indoor setting, germs can stay on surfaces for a very long time. We typically do not wipe down or launder worship surfaces after use. It's also pretty risky to breathe air that has been expelled from another person's lungs, especially if that person may be carrying the virus and not know it. The air simply has nowhere to go.

It turns out that the acts of singing and hugging, the familiarity of people across households, the multigenerational community of children, youth, adults and seniors coming together – all the things that makes our congregation so special - also create more risk for spreading the corona virus.

Public health officials are clear. There will need to be multiple weeks of reduction in infections, adequate testing, sufficient personal protective equipment available, contact tracing programs and perhaps even a vaccine before it will be safe for our congregation to fully gather in person again the way we once did. There will be a new normal for all sectors of our life together, including church.

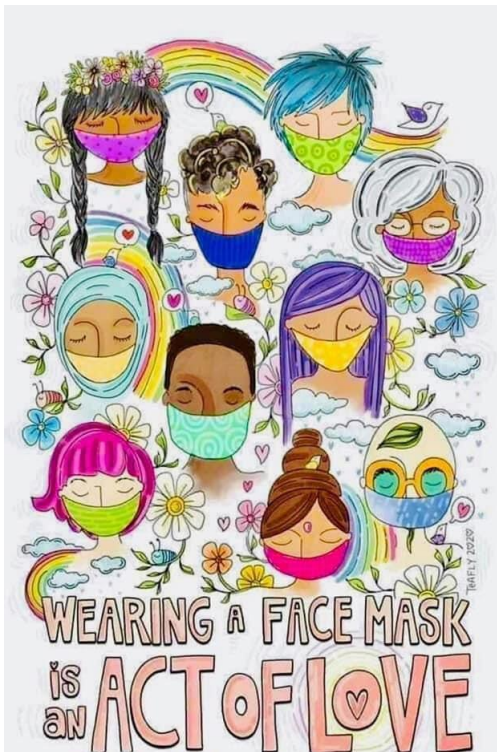
With this in mind, we have decided to follow the recommendations of the medical professionals and continue to refrain from worshipping together inside our Meetinghouse this summer. When it gets closer to the Fall, we will reevaluate our plan, based on local conditions, recognized best practices for public health and recommendations from the wider church.

Our life as a church traditionally revolves around corporate worship and the way we do that, and I know that there will be grief hearing that we're not going to be able to get back to it quickly. I feel very privileged to have worked with so many of you these past ten weeks of online worship, we are truly blessed. Sunday Meeting is the original basis of

our local congregation. Having it suspended and only available online is hard, and I realize that the next phase may not be a full resumption of church as we know it.

We hope to transition in mid-June to a socially distanced, in-person, outdoor summer chapel service, which will run at 9 am (to give our Episcopal brothers and sisters a chance to worship outdoors at 10). Those of you who are at risk or maintaining a quarantine will be able to tune in to YouTube and catch a live-stream. When we are able, more information on that will be sent via e-mail, so please stay tuned.

In peace, Pastor Jenn



1 Covidians 12:1-11

Now concerning the wearing of masks, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed. You know that in the time before Covid, we were enticed and led astray thinking that we were not responsible for one another's health. Therefore, I want you to understand that no one speaking in the spirit of love ever says 'masks be cursed!'; and no one can say 'masks are a really good idea for everybody!' except through a spirit of love.

Now there are varieties of masks, but the same spirit of wearing them; and there are varieties of mask wearers, but the same virus; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same precautions that must be shown to everyone.

To each is given a manifestation of a mask for the common good. To one a mask is given through our mask makers, and to another a purchased one online, or in a store according to the same spirit of protection. Some fashion one after watching a video on YouTube, to another... they already had some. The knowledge of needing to wear one according to the same spirit, to another faith that the same spirit will improve health and save lives.

Another receives the gifts of healing by this generous spirit, to another this seems no less than the working of a miracle, another prophecies that we'll get through all of this sooner by observing these loving precautions, to another the discernment of figuring out how all can get one, to another the knowledge that a mask hides all kinds of mouths and tongues, to another the understanding that those mouths and tongues are still there, behind those masks. All these are activated by one and the same spirit, and we hope to allot to each one individually just as they choose.

In other words, wear a mask! Because loving our neighbor as ourselves is the crux of it. When we wear a mask we are saying that we love and care for ourselves, and that we love and care for our neighbors. If our neighbor is sick (and perhaps doesn't even know it yet) our masks help protect US. If WE are sick (and perhaps don't even know it yet) our masks help protect OUR NEIGHBOR...it is a tangible and visible manifestation and practice of our LOVE. (written by Rev Greg Brown, Holy Comforter Episcopal Church, Charlotte, NC)



Faith at Home

In the world of Faith Formation, we have been talking a great deal about what we will bring with us then things return to normal. I personally believe that we will hopefully shape a new normal after this period of physical distancing. We have experimented with so many things we have talked about in the past. Things such as recording worship and posting it to YouTube, offering an electronic Sunday school and youth

groups, even adjustments in how we communicate with each other daily.

We have been hesitant in the past to implement these things I think out of fear of technical difficulties or them not being perfect, but now we have had no choice. Well, I guess there is the choice of offering nothing to the congregation – but that really isn't an option.

Now that we have exercised our electronic muscles, what will we bring with us? I have been working diligently with the Board of Christian Faith Formation, colleagues, and staff at the Southern New England Conference on things we can do to move through summer. The Board and I have decided to gather input from you and one of the ways we will do this is by issuing a survey to get your thoughts.

For now, I will continue to offer Zoom Fruits of the Spirit Sunday school and Jr. PF and some other stand-alone lessons that can be done when the time suits you best. I acknowledge that Sunday morning sitting in front of a screen is not optimal for everyone so stand-alone lessons are the next step in bringing Faith at Home to the next level.

Look for the surveys in the next few weeks and please fill them out so we can move forward in the best way to serve you.

Peace,Debi



June Photo

Contest

For the month of June, I would like for you to answer this question in photos: "Where do I find God in nature?" Please send your photos to me at debi@mcc-ucc.org so we can share them with others. This is a contest so we will have a winner and the prize is a \$20 gift certificate to Beautiful News Christian Book Store in Danbury. So, get out there and start taking some pictures!

Debi

Elisha's Corner

By Gary Thompson, Church Historian

Ye Olde Centre Green Revisited

Part 2: How It All Came About



The need for a centre green in the Parish of New Stratford was of political as well as practical importance. In order for the "Memorialists" to establish a parish and ultimately a township, the center of the settlement needed to be established. As the minutes of the Ecclesiastical Society in 1764 indicate, the centre was to be within 40 rods (660 feet) of the Meeting House. That would be anywhere within the distance between the Meeting House and the current driveway of St. Jude's Church south on Monroe

Turnpike. Even before the Declaration of Independence was a reality in the colonies, ye olde centre green was in full use; all be it by common use. The open field created by the joint properties of innkeeper Nehemiah de Forest and the then Cpt. Joseph Moss of the local 41st Regiment Connecticut Militia unit was directly in front of the Meeting House. It was commonly used by the local militia unit for scheduled Muster Day drills even before war broke out in earnest and was referred to, according to Ed Coffey, Town Historian, as "the place of parade". Thus, when the Ecclesiastical Society Council decided, on January 19, 1763, to work with the County Court in Fairfield and secure agreement that the Parish centre would be in the area of "Brushy Ring" (the approximate boundaries of the Monroe Historic District), the highest elevation in the area, it made sense that the parade ground would be the "green" or "centre". Samuel Beardsley was delegated to secure that agreement.

Later, in 1784, when the Parish started its push to become a township, it became practical, as well as political, for de Forest and Moss to formally deed the half acre "common" portions of their properties to the Parish to claim it as its "centre" and forthwith the Council petitioned the General Assembly, "To fix a centre of a new town and that this Centre Shall be Established by the General Assembly." During our Revolutionary War with Great Britain this half acre continued to be used for military training and drill, and a liberty pole was erected near to the Meeting House. We have had one (flag pole) there ever since. Now it is at the south end. Following its formal establishment the Green was referred to as "the square" and then later as "the park".

Sometime around 1870, a Park Association of the Centre of Monroe was established. Its membership was primarily, if not completely, made up of members of the Congregational Society and St. Peter's Episcopal Church. The descendants of the Ecclesiastical Society of New Stratford (1763) later renamed itself the Presbyterian Society, then the Congregational Society of Monroe in the mid 1800's before it became the Monroe Congregational Church. St. Peter's Episcopal Church was established in 1802. This apparent joint level of common interest in the maintenance of "the park" is important in understanding why it was deeded later to both churches. From accounts written by our first church historian, Jean Loveland, both church congregations were very concerned that, "the progress of time was about to wipe out the Green", for whatever use, and the Town was lax at keeping The Park well groomed and maintained. Despite the fact that the Park Association was comprised of congregation members, collectively they probably could not have prevented the Town from selling the property to the highest bidder. They evidently committed themselves to control the Green's destiny. So it was that the famous

FESTIVAL was held in the summer of 1872. The Congregational Society's Ladies Improvement Society and most probably joining forces with the lady's society of St. Peter's Episcopal Church, under the auspices of the Park Association, held the first Strawberry Festival of Monroe to raise the funds for the purchase of The Park and additional property on its southern border. The "festival" was held on the "de Forest/Moss" half acre. The sale of the property to the two churches was facilitated by two separate deeds, formed by two prominent families. William A. Clarke, then Treasurer of the Park Association, sold the nearly three-quarter acre Park to the two churches for \$175 (\$3,700 today), and an additional one-half acre parcel, to be annexed to the south end of The [then existing] Park, was purchased for \$100 (\$2,100 today) from the home property of widow Hepsey Beach. Both deeds were dated October 22, 1872. It is curious that the Park acreage was set at "about three-quarters of an acre", which would mean that the de Forest/Moss portion grew somehow by another almost quarter acre, which it lost in any event to the widening of the roads around the Green. Today, the property is publicly assessed at one acre.

The widow Hepsey Beach was the daughter of Abel French ("Judge French", Justice of the Peace), a family that dated back to the New Stratford Parish Memorialists, Samuel and Ebenezer ("Gluin") French. She married David Beach (1808– 1859) on November 19, 1831 before the Ecclesiastical Society minister Rev. Daniel Jones. Their farmhouse still stands on Monroe Turnpike, north of Fireman's Field and across the highway from the Edith Wheeler Memorial Library. Hepsey and David had only one child, John David (1848 -). David Beach died when John was only eleven. Hepsey remained a widow the rest of her life. Seven years after David's death Hepsey formally became a Congregational Society member on March 7, 1852. No doubt she was a member of the Ladies Improvement Society. Her son, John, at age twenty-one, witnessed the deed of sale along with William A. Clarke.

Hepsey Beach had a younger sister, Sarah (1812 – 1875), called Sally French, who married John Clarke in 1840. It was an interfaith marriage performed by Rev. Rodney Rossiter, Rector of St. Peter's Episcopal Church. At age twenty-one, John removed from Newtown to Monroe, purchased one hundred acres of farmland and eventually became a warden in the Episcopal Church. The land he purchased was originally owned by Cpt. Joseph Moss and the house that he built is still at the corner of Church Street and Monroe Turnpike, across the road from the quarter acre donated by Moss to the New Stratford Parish for a park. John had a brother, William (1805 – 1846), born the same year as his second or third cousin, William A. (Ambrose) Clarke, who named one of his sons, John.

William A. Clarke, a distant relative of Hepsey's sister, Sally, was also her neighbor. His house is on the property directly behind St. Peter's Church on Moose Hill Road and across the street from Hepsey's backyard. He was prominently a farmer, merchant, and Monroe's postmaster. His will indicated that he owned the eighty acres at Paul's Pond on Monroe Turnpike as well as ten acres on Wheeler Road. His will and Hepsey's deed also indicate that he owned three acres on Fan Hill Road to the west of the Green and adjacent to Hepsey's property. It would have been part of the property originally owned by innkeeper Nehemiah de Forest. Church records tell us that one of St. Peter's stained glass windows was given in his memory. Interestingly, though, when he married his wife, Ruth Miller, in 1833, it too was an interfaith ceremony and was held at the 2nd Congregational Church in Hartford, officiated by Rev. Cornelius C. Vanarsdalen. In 1874, William A. Clarke was appointed Chairman of the Park Association; under new management.

Our Centre Green has been depicted in the 1836 sketches and prints by John Warner Barber and in 1996 lithograph by local artist David Merrill, whose mural of Monroe is painted in the Edith Wheeler Memorial Library. Two families, one from each church, the

French's and the Clarke's, made it all come about. True and verifiable; yet it is the stuff that historical novels are made of. It remains the only town center green in Connecticut that is privately owned by two churches formed by two separate deeds. Both deeds state that the property is, "to be used wholly and exclusively as a Public Park" We will see in Part III of this series how it has been used since then.



Socially Distanced Office Hours

Pastor Jenn will be offering socially distanced office hours by appointment after May 20th on the parsonage side lawn, provided the weather holds. If you are unable to leave your home, she can also come to you and stay (socially distanced) outside your storm door for a chat. Arrange with her by calling 203-895-5607.

PF HARD - PF SAFE

IF YOU HAVE A COUGH/FEVER (NOT ALLERGY RELATED), PLEASE STAY HOME AND JOIN US ON ZOOM

MASKS MANDATORY

PF OUTSIDE (BRING LAWN CHAIR)

BRING YOUR OWN SNACK (NO SHARING)

NO IMMEDIATE CONTACT (HUGS)

WASH HANDS FREQUENTLY (OUTDOOR HAND WASH STATION)

LIMITED ONSITE BATHROOM USE

Beginning May 31, 2020 at MCC



Have you shared a **"Peace be with you"** video with the congregation through our online worship services? The MCC worship video production team would like to keep including fresh new faces, so please **send in your video!**

If you have access to a smartphone, making one of these videos is really simple:

1. Start the recording.
2. Smile and wait for 2 seconds.
3. Say, "Peace be with you," and wait for 2 seconds.
4. Stop the recording.
5. Text your video to Don Parker-Burgard: 203-260-1487.

We would love to have a bank of videos we can include in the next several services, so please contribute. Your fellow MCCers will be glad to see you!



Hello Congregation, just a quick update from the Trustees.

The Small Business Administration PPP loan we applied for has been approved and we have received the \$42,700. This is not a traditional loan, in that, if we maintain our current staffing, the loan will be forgiven, as part of the stimulus package you have heard about on the news. In other good news, our operating account is healthy, because of those who have paid their pledge in the early part of the calendar year, as

well as some random donations from people who have tuned in to our worship on YouTube . Thank you for those that have pledged and continue to fulfill their commitment! If you have a change in employment or ability to meet your pledge, please reach out to John O'Rourke at jorourke224@gmail.com so that he can keep the stewardship numbers and expectations current.

You may remember that in the 2020 budget, we were expecting to generate \$30,000 in profit from the Strawberry Festival, which has unfortunately been cancelled due to the corona virus. We also needed to close a \$50,000 budget gap, so that we could eliminate the draw down of funds from our church endowments / investments. With the market's fluctuation, we have stopped making that draw down for now, so that our investments can move towards recovery.

Several families volunteered to tackle various Spring Clean Up projects around our campus, thanks for the help! Dave Allen will be coordinating efforts as we move towards reopening our buildings, hopefully by this fall. He can be reached at dallen9457@att.net, if you are interested in helping out on a small project.

As always, please reach out to me with any concerns or questions: fwittenauer@outlook.com or mobile 1-404-664-3026. Thank you for your support of MCC!

-Frank Wittenauer, Chair of Trustees



I hope everyone is staying safe and healthy as we get through the pandemic together. During this time of disruption of Sunday church services, it's important to maintain our giving so the church can continue to operate. Our church office is still closed and our staff is working remotely to continue the church's mission. Now is the time for all of us to do our best to continue our donations so that we ensure the smooth operation of our church's ministries.

The good news is that heading into this time we have received over \$202,000 in pledges for 2020, a goal we have been trying to reach for several years. And collections on pledges have been strong from January through May - thank you! There are several ways you can continue giving to MCC, including:

- Mail or drop off your donations to the church office mailbox at 34 Church Street, Monroe CT 06468, attention MCC Receiver. Mail is being collected on a daily basis, and checks are being counted and deposited on a weekly basis.
- Arrange for electronic automatic payment to MCC via your bank
- Make electronic payments via Vanco, by clicking on the "Donate" link on our web site, <http://www.mcc-ucc.org/donate.html>

I hope to see you all soon. In the meantime, thanks for your support of MCC and feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

John O'Rourke – MCC Receiver

Email: jorourke224@gmail.com Mobile: 203-521-9006



Trustees Spring Cleaning

This year, instead of a one day group effort, we asked for volunteers to pick a project and a day to come to the church and complete it. We would like to **thank the following people for their hard work** completing our much needed church spring cleanup projects to beautify the church campus for all of us to enjoy!

1. Clean and rake out the plantings -**the Campos family**
2. Install new Mulch -**the Campos family**
3. Sweep & organize church basement-**Dave Allen**
4. Clean & organize church pews –**the Wittenauer family**
5. Repair driveway –**Dave Allen**

Other jobs we're saving until we are closer to opening our building include:

6. Replace light bulbs in Wilton Hall
7. Clean and organize nursery
8. Clean & organize classrooms
9. Clean & organize Dineson Parlor



Did you get a new phone number/cell phone, or email address? Did you move? Did you update your information with the MCC office?

Staying connected, now more than ever, has its challenges. It is important to the church leadership that you know that we are here for you. We want to keep you informed and in touch with all that MCC has happening during these strange and difficult times and beyond.

If you have had changes, or haven't been receiving weekly emails, Giving Statements, and the monthly Steeple letter, please contact Diane in the office at secretary@mcc-ucc.org or 203-268-1041 so that we can update your information –thank you! Stay healthy, safe, informed and MCC Strong!

Outreach



St George's Supper

For our June 15th meal we will be providing *Bag Lunches* consisting of a sandwich, apple, chips, small bottle of water, and a napkin for the folks at SGS. We will deliver the completed lunches to Guy Love, the pastor that manages St. George's Supper, and he will distribute. Here's how you can help:

1. **Donate \$10 to purchase food.** You drop off a check in the mailbox or mail a check to MCC, 34 Church Street, Monroe, CT 06468. Please put St. George's Supper in the memo line.

2a. **Make 10 sandwiches and buy 10 apples;**

provide either Turkey & Amer. Cheese, or Roast Beef & Amer. Cheese, on wheat/white bread in a sandwich bag. No condiments (we will provide packets of mustard and mayonnaise). Please contact Kathy if you are going to make sandwiches, so that we know if we have enough.

2b. **Drop off** the sandwiches and apples to MCC on Monday, April between 11 and 1 pm on the table set up in Wilton Hall. Wilton Hall door will be open.

With the monetary donations we will purchase lunch bags, chips, small water bottle and napkins. Stacy and I will combine the lunches and deliver them to SGS on Monday afternoon. Thanks so much and if you have any questions, feel free to email me at kmaiolo@gmail.com or call my cell at 203-260-0292.

Stay safe, (virtual hug) *Kathy*



Masks!

We have a limited supply of fabric masks. If you would like one, please email Diane at secretary@MCC-UCC.org. Thank you John and Trees Whitbeck who have been keeping busy during "social distancing" making freecloth CORONAVIRUS MASKS for anyone who would like one. These are not the N95 masks for hospital use, they are for regular people who want to

stay safer (and keep others safer, when they go out for groceries, etc.) They are reusable - just throw them in the washing machine on hot, or boil them on your stove for 10 minutes, between wearings.

Fellowship

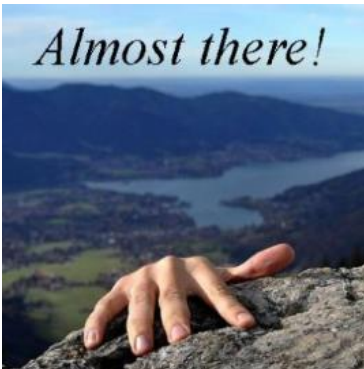


The Young at Heart, Book Club & Morning Circle will not be meeting in June. Future events will be determined and communicated when we are able.



Your **Women's Retreat** planning team is bringing you a "Plan B" day retreat with some of the activities and discussions we had prepared for our cancelled March retreat.

Please join us in Wilton Hall on **Saturday, June 6th** from 1-3 pm. Please bring a mask (if you do not have one, Pastor Jenn can provide). We will be socially distancing. There is a \$10 donation to cover the cost of the activity supplies.



Ladies Room Renovation Capital Campaign Project Update

Thank you for your generosity! As of today we are still at our May total of \$11,900 (including the \$2,200 from Gingerbread fund raising). It would be great to get this project completed while the Rexford House is essentially closed, and have a beautiful, safe, functional restroom when we reopen! However, we have been instructed not to start the project until we have all the funding.

We still need to raise an additional \$6,325.

Thank you again. Be safe. Stay well. Peace.

Arlene Redmond for Your Ladies' Room Repair & Improvement Team



Happy June Birthday to the following people and to anyone we may have missed we will keep you in our prayers.

John	Whitbeck	06/03	Andy	Nivison	06/17
Jaxon	Sullivan	06/04	Kathryn	Young	06/19
June	Wilkes	06/05	Scott	Young	06/19
Fred	Dubois	06/06	Chantal	Crosnier	06/20
Ava	Heffelfinger	06/08	Olivia	Cross	06/20
Ken	Kelly	06/08	Meg	Sullivan	06/20
Kyle	Konkol	06/08	Juliette	Nealon	06/21
Jeanette	Combs	06/09	Chloe	Dubois	06/22
Jim	Gill	06/09	Ted	Zalenski	06/22
Cynthia	Kovacs	06/10	Julia	Gutierrez	06/23
Mike	McCormick	06/10	Hannah	Halloran	06/23
Abby	Coleman	06/11	Kevin	O'Mara	06/26
June	Winger	06/11	Bill	Wakeley	06/27
Rich	Correll	06/14	Sarah	Post	06/29
Paul	Cardentey	06/15	Dan	Sullivan	06/29
Gregory	Nivison	06/16	Jennifer	Gingras	06/30
			David	Walker	06/30



Happy June Wedding Anniversary to the following couples and to anyone we may have missed, we will keep you in our prayers. (Number is anniversary date)

Richard & Lynda Bauer⁽¹⁾ David & Kathy Allen⁽³⁾ Christopher & Julie McHugh⁽⁵⁾
 Scott & Katie Young⁽⁵⁾ Carl & Paula Hagstrom⁽⁶⁾ Bill & Ruth Wakeley⁽⁹⁾
 Chuck & Bonnie Schneider⁽¹³⁾ Don & Kate Parker-Burgard⁽¹⁶⁾ David & Kerri Swift⁽²⁰⁾
 Ron & Peggy Vaillani⁽²⁴⁾ Robert & Gail Olson⁽²⁷⁾ Mark & Stacey Andrejczyk⁽²⁹⁾
 Ken & Pam Kelly⁽³⁰⁾

In Our Prayers...

Jim and Gretchen Davison, Jackie Ajello(Michele Mount's mother);**Michael Barresi** (Maria's Son); **Jennifer Bittar**(Lorraine Zeiner's friend);**Byron Brown & Bruce Bryant** (friends of Will Duchon); **Cheryl Ciambriello**(Wendy Colegrove's friend); **Dot Dralus; Matt Duchon; Dave Fuller** (Gail Olson's brother);**Karen Guinness** (Jennifer Nivison's friend); **Meredith Gibson**(Paul & Judy Coward's niece); **Lily Grace** (Maria Barresi's baby cousin); **Rachel Fracassini**(Jack & Linda Fracassini's niece);**Donnajeane & Ken Fredeen; Gary & Julie Hedine**(Nancy Hedine's son & daughter-in-law); **Rachel Heerema**(Julia Gutierrez's sister); **Bob Heffernan** (Ann Zeiner's son-in-law); **Brian Hopkins** (Donna Konkol's cousin); **Vera James** (Jenn Wissink's mother);**Kelti**(friend of Liska Gutierrez); **Mary-Margaret Logan**(Andrew's mother); **Beverly Lowrey**(Jackie Bleakney); **Jacque MacLean** (Jennifer Nivison's friend); **Nicole Malia; Mike** (Janie Allen's son); **Rev. Jonathan Miller** (Paul & Judy Coward's friend);**Olivia Morrison** (Donna Nickdow's niece); **Joe Mumper** (Julie McClenathan's friend); **Kathy Nivison**(Andy's mother); **Pat Nugent; Ocampo family** (friends of Liska Gutierrez); **Bob & Melissa Olson; Jason Olson; Mark Olson; Ray Osborne** (Colegrove's Family friend); **Dean Perosino**(Gayle Hammond's brother);**Geno Piacentini**(Karen MacDonald's husband); **P.T. Philip** (Liz Sampson's father); **Norman & Jan Ricker** (Linda & Jack Fracassini's friend);**Barbara Rivel** (Judy Coward's friend); **Regina Roberts** (Kathy Maiolo's niece); **Kelly Rodman** (Angela Cross' friend); **Alfredo Rodriguez** (Osirus Gutierrez's cousin);**Noah Santiago** (Shari Carrano's great-grandson); **Connor Scalia** (Jen Nivison's friend); **Hunter Scalzo**(Angela Cross's nephew);**Carlos Serrano** (Kathy Maiolo's cousin); **Al Shaeffer; Bob Sherbo**(Jack Fracassini's cousin);**Yessika Siccardi**(Sampson family friend); **Bernie Sippin; John Skarupa**(Barb Pellegrino's brother); **Christine Stadler; William Stadler**(Jessica Pfalzgraf's nephew); **Tom & Jane Steen** (Jessica Pfalzgraf's father & step-mother); **Christian & Dain Steiner** (Julie McClenathan's nephews); **Ellie Swindlehurst**(Joanne Malia's mother); **Olga Terwilliger**(Nancy Hedine's sister-in-law); **Ian Thompson** (Gary's cousin); **Dick Thompson** (Gary's cousin); **Meg Trogolo**(Paul & Judy Coward's niece);**Bill & Ruth Wakeley; Susan Walker; Rita Wissink**(Larry's mother), **Margaret Woodruff** (Mike Pfalzgraf's mother); **Charles L. Wynn, Sr.,** (and his mother)**Alleane Wynn** (friends of Will Duchon)

The concerns of our world:

*Those who serve or live in **war** or **conflict zones**; **first responders** and those who serve in **law enforcement**; those who suffer **discrimination**; those who struggle with **mental illness, addiction, divorce or separation**; **Caregivers**; the **homeless, homebound and refugees**; Our friends living on the **Cheyenne River Sioux Reservation** and in **Oaxaca, Mexico***

Those serving in the military, veterans & their families:

South Korea: **Zachary Gingras**

Washington: **Rachel Hoffman** (Vaughan Askue's daughter)

Japan: **Chris Meneses** (Lorraine Zeiner's friend)

Georgia: **Zachary Peters** (Jacob Parker-Burgard's cousin)

Kuwait: **Steven Roshong** (Judy & Paul Coward's nephew), **Bob Peters** (Don Parker-Burgard's brother-in-law)

Afghanistan: **Samuel Siciliano**

North Carolina: **Jake Terifay**

Community Calendar

MCC June

*Worship may be found on our new YouTube Channel, posted Sundays by 9am <https://www.youtube.com/monroecongregationalchurchucc>

**Please note that zoom links may have been updated.

Wed. June 3rd

6:30 pm Confirmation Class History Walk (in-person, socially distanced, outdoor)

Sat. June 6th

"Let it Go" Women's Day Retreat, Wilton Hall (in-person, socially distanced)

Week of June 7th

10 am Communion Sunday* (Communion Bread Recipe on last page of the Steeple)

10:30 am virtual coffee hour

<https://zoom.us/j/460134127?pwd=cjYrUDhSSkppdjNMYjhvQ0ZDci9hUT09>

11:30 am Fruit of the Spirit Gathering

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/873010680?pwd=L1B4VUpKTmcwakZocHRyOU13YWwhMZz09>

5 pm Adult PF <https://zoom.us/j/527377480>

5 pm Senior PF (in-person, socially distanced, outdoor)

8 pm Jr. PF Zoom Gathering

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/217631626?pwd=RXNzeUdWMEk5WERCYmJUcUd4L1BxZz09>

Wed. June 10th

6:30 pm Confirmation Class (in-person, socially distanced, outdoor)

Week of June 14th

9 am Worship*

10:30 am virtual coffee hour

<https://zoom.us/j/460134127?pwd=cjYrUDhSSkppdjNMYjhvQ0ZDci9hUT09>

11:15 am Trustees Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/591991278?pwd=SVlkazlRNUdhWmpGN01CTytNSjJWZz09>

5 pm Adult PF <https://zoom.us/j/527377480>

5 pm Senior PF (in-person, socially distanced, outdoor)

8 pm Jr. PF Gatherings Sundays

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/217631626?pwd=RXNzeUdWMEk5WERCYmJUcUd4L1BxZz09>

Mon. June 15th

3:45 pm St George's Supper

Wed. June 17th

6:30 pm Confirmation Class (in-person, socially distanced, outdoor)

Week of June 21st

Happy Father's Day! Confirmation Sunday

9 am Outdoor, Socially Distanced Worship, Streamed to YouTube

10:30 am virtual coffee hour ***No live coffee hour at the church**

<https://zoom.us/j/460134127?pwd=cjYrUDhSSkppdjNMYjhvQ0ZDci9hUT09>

11:30 am Fruit of the Spirit Gathering

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/873010680?pwd=L1B4VUpKTmcwakZochRyOU13YWhMZz09>

5 pm Adult PF <https://zoom.us/j/527377480>

5 pm Senior PF(in-person, socially distanced, outdoor)

8 pm Jr. PF Gatherings Sundays

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/217631626?pwd=RXNzeUdWMEk5WERCYmJUcUd4L1BxZz09>

Thurs. June 25th

7 pm Board of Christian Faith Formation

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81713665326?pwd=Y0hZQmIOSS9MSmlaaGdGVUp5WTNCdz09>

Week of June 28th

9 am Outdoor, Socially Distanced Worship, Streamed to YouTube

10:30 am virtual coffee hour ***No live coffee hour at the church**

<https://zoom.us/j/460134127?pwd=cjYrUDhSSkppdjNMYjhvQ0ZDci9hUT09>

11:30 am Fruit of the Spirit Gathering

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/873010680?pwd=L1B4VUpKTmcwakZochRyOU13YWhMZz09>

5 pm Adult PF <https://zoom.us/j/527377480>

5 pm Senior PF(in-person, socially distanced, outdoor)

8 pm Jr. PF Gatherings Sundays

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/217631626?pwd=RXNzeUdWMEk5WERCYmJUcUd4L1BxZz09>



Communion Bread Recipe

I have shared this Communion Bread Recipe with you all before, but I thought it would be great if you could make some with your household members and use it for our Sunday Service! Debi

For use in your household, I would suggest making only half of this recipe. (dividing each measure by half)

Preheat oven to 400 degrees Bake 12-15 minutes

Mix Together:

- 3 cups flour - plus $\frac{1}{4}$ cup for kneading (I use my dough hook so I don't knead)
- 2 tsp. baking powder
- 1 tsp. salt
- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup vegetable oil
- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup honey
- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup milk
- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup water
- Warm honey (microwave 30 seconds on high).

Mix honey, oil, milk and water together. Add to flour mixture a small amount at a time, mixing after each addition. Dough may be a bit sticky. Turn dough onto lightly floured surface (using small part of $\frac{1}{4}$ cup flour) knead and add flour as needed to have smooth, soft dough. Take approximately $\frac{1}{3}$ of the dough and roll out to $\frac{1}{2}$ inch thickness. Use pan cover approximately 7 inches in diameter to cut circle. Place cut circle on cookie sheet. Repeat with remaining two thirds of dough. Score each circle to form small squares with knife with serrated edge. Bake and then let cool about one hour. Place in plastic bag once the bread is cool to retain freshness.

This is the beloved, traditional Communion Bread which is used at Woodmont United Church of Christ in Milford, CT