



# THE MONROE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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# STEEPLE

34 Church Street  
Monroe, CT 06468

Tel.: (203) 268-9327  
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**Office Hours:**  
Monday – Friday  
9:00a.m. - 3:30p.m.

Senior Pastor: Rev. Jennifer Gingras  
Music Director: Will Duchon  
Secretary: Melissa Rosenberg  
Director of Faith Formation: Debi Mastroni-Kenyon  
Church e-mail: [secretary@mcc-ucc.org](mailto:secretary@mcc-ucc.org)

**September 15, 2016**

## **Lay Visitation Ministry Training to Begin Soon!**

For years the deacons and I have been trying to think of how to implement a lay visitation ministry here at MCC. A church is a faith community. And some of that community, for one reason or another, are unable to physically be with us in worship or fellowship for a period of time. Perhaps they, themselves, have health concerns that keep them homebound or in a nursing facility. Or maybe they are caregivers of a loved one that needs attention. If we are truly going to express care for one another, then we must sometimes go where the people are.

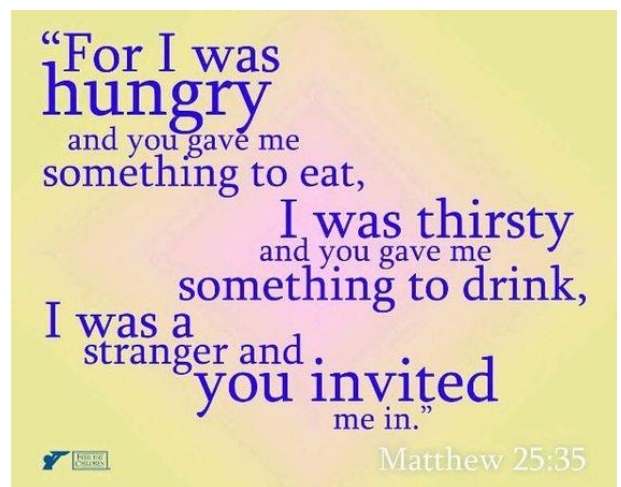
How nice it is when the pastor from the church visits in our time of need. But to have a dedicated person visit over the course of time in addition to a clergy person, now there's a caring church! To be sure, visitation will come easier for some people than others. Visiting is a viable ministry for people who enjoy others company, especially if their heart reaches out to people who are hurting, lonely, or in need.

The Lay Pastoral Visitation Ministry is a new initiative of the Monroe Congregational Church which provides care, attention, and spiritual support to individuals in our church, especially our elders and persons with special needs. If you think this ministry may be a good fit for you, and you have at least 3 hours to volunteer each month, we'd love to have you join us.

The three-part training will be led by me and Rev. Dr. Sheldon Smith, a retired clergyperson and current MCC Deacon. To participate, please let me know by phone or e-mail and save the dates of October 9, November 6th and December 4th from 11:15-12:45 for training in Dineson parlor. Lay Pastoral Visitors will be commissioned during worship on Sunday, December 11th.

If you have any questions or want to join our first team, please let me know.

*In peace, Pastor Jenn*





## 2nd Annual Monroe MusicFest

Come to MCC on Saturday, October 1, 2016 from 2 p.m. to about 9 p.m. to hear an eclectic mix of upbeat, melodic, bluesy, classical, folk, Caribbean, uplifting, serene...music. Get a reiki massage, have a burrito from the truck, or dessert and coffee from the kitchen. See Roger Salls's photography.

### Top 10 Reasons You Want to Attend Monroe MusicFest

10. Hang out in community with friends.
9. Enjoy good food.
8. Meet interesting people.
7. You do not have to talk about politics.
6. Relax and soak up great music.
5. Help fund the Senior PF mission trip.
4. You do not have to even think about politics.
3. Be one of the first to obtain a copy of *Musical Whimsy: The (in)Complete Edition of Music Notes* by Will Duchon.
2. Come hear the music in the air.
1. No politics!

How to get tickets (\$15/individual; \$30/family) for MusicFest:

1. Online at <http://monroemusicfest.tix.com/schedule.aspx?orgnum=5356> or click through from the blogspot, <http://monroemusicfest.blogspot.com/> .
2. Tickets will be sold after worship at coffee hour in Wilton Hall on the 18<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> of September.
3. Tickets are available in the office, Monday through Friday.
4. And of course, at the door (you will get your hand stamped – same as last year).

*Come join the fun.*



Paulette Obertz will be selling homemade applesauce to support the 2016 MusicFest. Each jar sells for \$6.00. Please contact Paulette at 203-216-4183

## **Messages for “All of God’s Children”**

By now I am sure you have realized that my style of “Children’s Messages” is different from those from Pastor Jenn. There are a few reasons why I do these messages the way I do, but for those of you who have yet to experience one of my messages I will tell you what they look like.

Following the Passing of the Peace I spring into action and stroll up and down the sanctuary addressing everyone present. I do not call the children forward, I speak to everyone. I ask questions; I call on folks who would like to answer; I typically do a “repeat after me” prayer.

Rationale: I do not call the children forward for a few reasons; 1) some children might be uncomfortable coming forward; 2) some children might be too comfortable coming forward; 3) my message is for “All of God’s children”; 4) I am passionate about Intergenerational Faith Formation.

When Pastor Jenn does the “Children’s Message” she will use her style of delivery, which I am sure will include calling the children forward – after all that is her time with them as their Pastor.

As always, I welcome any conversation or feedback you have for me. [debi@mcc-ucc.org](mailto:debi@mcc-ucc.org) or 203-444-6760.

Blessings and peace to you, Debi Mastroni-Kenyon

## **Jr. Pilgrim Fellowship Calendar**

### **September**

**18<sup>th</sup>** – Regular Gathering at 6:30 pm

**25<sup>th</sup>** – Regular Gathering at 6:30 pm

### **October**

**2<sup>nd</sup>** – NO Jr. PF

**9<sup>th</sup>** – Regular Gathering at 6:30 pm

**16<sup>th</sup>** – Retreat Weekend – NO Regular Gathering

**23<sup>rd</sup>** – Regular Gathering at 6:30 pm

**30<sup>th</sup>** – Regular Gathering at 6:30 pm (Halloween Party)

## **Jr. Pilgrim Fellowship Retreat**

The Jr. Pilgrim Fellowship will be going on a retreat to Silver Lake Conference Center in Sharon, CT from October 14<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup>. If you have a child in 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade they are welcome to come on this weekend. The cost for the weekend is \$140.00 per person. If there is a financial hardship there are scholarships available. For more information, please contact Debi at [debi@mcc-ucc.org](mailto:debi@mcc-ucc.org).

## Sunday School Calendar

### September

**18<sup>th</sup>** – Regular Sunday school classes

**25<sup>th</sup>** – Regular Sunday school classes

### October

**2<sup>nd</sup>** – Communion Sunday; classes for 3<sup>rd</sup> grade and under, Junior Choir practice begins

**9<sup>th</sup>** - Regular Sunday school classes

**16<sup>th</sup>** - Regular Sunday school classes

**23<sup>rd</sup>** - Regular Sunday school classes

**30<sup>th</sup>** – NO Sunday school; Worship and Service for All Ages (more on this to come!)

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### What's A Deacon Flock?

Each member of our board of Deacons is assigned a "flock", a group of people that they care for through regular communication and prayer. If you have requests or concerns that you would like to share, your deacon is available. Naturally, if you are more comfortable with contacting one of the other deacons, or your pastor, please do so. If you do not know your Deacon, ask someone to introduce you. He or she looks forward to meeting you and getting to know you better.

(A-B)	Brian Correll	203-400-2891	<a href="mailto:bcorrell13@yahoo.com">bcorrell13@yahoo.com</a>
(C)	Heather Henning	203-543-3126	<a href="mailto:Heather.henning@sbcglobal.net">Heather.henning@sbcglobal.net</a>
(D-Ga)	Jessica Pfalzgraf	203-261-3678	<a href="mailto:jspfalzgraf@gmail.com">jspfalzgraf@gmail.com</a>
(Gi-Hed)	David Bailey	203-261-5940	<a href="mailto:davidjbaileyinct@gmail.com">davidjbaileyinct@gmail.com</a>
(Hef-Kos)	Joanne Malia	203-270-6697	<a href="mailto:joanne.malia@pharma.com">joanne.malia@pharma.com</a>
(Kov-Ne)	Vinay Sampson	203-880-9232	<a href="mailto:evksampson@yahoo.com">evksampson@yahoo.com</a>
(Ni-Pr)	Frank Wittenauer	203-445-8670	<a href="mailto:fwittenauer@outlook.com">fwittenauer@outlook.com</a>
(R-Sh)	Barbara Pellegrino	203-261-6270	<a href="mailto:Mpellegrino6270@charter.net">Mpellegrino6270@charter.net</a>
(Si-Sw)	Vaughan Askue	203-345-3637	<a href="mailto:vaughanaskue@gmail.com">vaughanaskue@gmail.com</a>
(T-Wib)	Sheldon Smith	203-880-5228	<a href="mailto:revsheldonsmith@yahoo.com">revsheldonsmith@yahoo.com</a>
(Wil-Z)	Paulette Obertz	203-216-4183	<a href="mailto:auggietoto@aol.com">auggietoto@aol.com</a>

**A Visit from Kent Siladi, Tuesday, September 20th at 7:30pm:** MCC has been selected for a visit from members of the CTUCC Board of Directors and CT Conference Minister, Rev. Kent Siladi! The purpose is to connect with members of larger membership churches to hear about our ministry and find ways we can better support each other. We are proud of the commitment, leadership and spirit of our terrific congregation! The Church Council is very excited about this visit and we're hopeful that you will be able to join us! Everyone in the congregation is welcome, so please help us spread the word.



**Self-Discovery & Friendship Found at Rachel's Well:** Women have been bonding together in groups for centuries. Coming together with other women brings fresh ideas and a wealth of wisdom and insight for discovering how God's Spirit is manifest in our lives. Are you a teacher, a healer, a writer, a mother, an artist, a businesswoman, an activist, a civic leader? What is your contribution, your voice? Rachel's Well is a women's spirituality group that began in 2007 and now meets on the first Monday night of each month at 7:30pm in Dineson Parlor. Members of the group have encountered many transitions and change, and have given and received support during grief and loss.

Don't be put off by the term "women's spirituality". We believe it to mean the practice of staying connected with what makes us alive, with our own selves, with one another and with the Divine. We are an inclusive circle, a safe place to bring questions and find support. Our meetings are open to all women, and we expect participants to maintain confidentiality and hold one another's trust. Our next meeting is Monday, October 3rd at 7:30pm, in Dineson Parlor. We will catch up with one another and prepare some Ben's Bells (learn more about Ben's Bells at [www.bensbells.org](http://www.bensbells.org)).



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**Neighbors in Need (NIN) October 2th** is a special mission offering of the UCC that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. One-third of NIN funds support the Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM). Two-thirds of the offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries (JWM) to support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects through NIN grants which are awarded to churches and organizations doing justice work in their communities. Projects range from direct service to community organizing and advocacy to address systemic injustice. Funding for grants is provided through donations to the Neighbors in Need offering. We will receive the NIN offering on October 2, 2016 as part of our World Communion Sunday observance.



**Habitat for Humanity:** Please consider volunteering with MCC Habitat coordinator, John Sekelsky on Nov 5 and Dec 10th for Habitat Work Days. You can choose one day or all days to work-it's up to you!

If you would like to volunteer please contact John at [johnsekelsky@gmail.com](mailto:johnsekelsky@gmail.com) so he can let the Sound Coalition manager know how many from MCC will attend. Thanks for your support of this special work. You can learn more about Habitat for Humanity by visiting: [habitatcfc.org/](http://habitatcfc.org/)



**Please Help Support A Project From The Heart.** It Would Mean So Much For Our Soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan To Receive Care Packages From MCC. We need toiletries such as deodorant and shampoo, toothbrushes, and non-perishables items such as cookies (in boxes) beef jerky, puzzle books, playing cards and snack items. If you have any questions please contact Miriam Zalenski at 203-261-8550 or [bigred722@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bigred722@sbcglobal.net)



**Mustard Seed Thrift Shoppe needs Volunteers!!** If you have free time to man the counter on Thursdays from 12-3, Fridays from 10-12:30 or 12:30-3 or Saturdays from 10-12 or 12-2, please contact Susie Cuseo at 203-268-0280 or [thecuseos@yahoo.com](mailto:thecuseos@yahoo.com). We also need helping sorting and tagging on Tuesday's at 1:30pm. It's very easy to open or close the Shoppe. If you are interested, you can stop by when the Shoppe is open and see what needs to be done by speaking to the volunteer or contact me and we can meet at the Shoppe at your available time.

**Donations are needed for the Monroe Food Pantry**



Food Pantry Donations Needed

Juice (apple, cranberry, etc)	Peanut Butter & Jelly or Jam	Brownie Mix, Cake Mix Bisquick, pancake mix
Hamburger Helper	Chicken or Beef Broth	Flour, Sugar, Spices
Canned Tomatoes Canned beans ex: Kidney Beans, baked beans	Pet Supplies: Dog Food dry and wet Cat Food dry and wet Cat litter, toys,	Snack items i.e. cookies, goldfish crackers, individual pkgs of pretzels
Jarred Pasta Sauce	Cooking Oil	<b>Toiletries</b>
Cereal (hot or cold)	Non-Perishable Milk such as Parmalat	Shampoo & Conditioner, Soap
Canned Potatoes	Salad Dressing (any flavor)	Diapers, baby wipes, ointment
Egg Noodles	Ketchup, Mustard & Mayonnaise	Tooth Paste & Tooth Brushes

To donate perishable items such as eggs or milk please call 452-3770 to arrange a drop off time. For nonperishable items please place in the bin in the Rexford House-Thank you for your generosity!

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**Thanks, Board of Fellowship!**

A big, big thanks to these wonderful people on the board of fellowship for the fun **All Church Picnic** at Wolfe Park (and their significant others, who always pitch in)! About 60 of us joined in a great meal, 'who am I', egg toss, marshmallow golf, corn hole and a rousing trivia game. I enjoyed myself so much that I forgot to take pictures. June loved her burger, too! Jan, Laura, Sue and Sheri - we are all very grateful to you



for getting us together just to reconnect and have fun. (Pictured here: Sue Crea, Jan Pearson, Laura Rasmussen and Sheri Carrano)



**Please join us for the MCC Book Club!**

**September 21<sup>st</sup> – 7:30pm** The Girl Who Wrote in Silk by Kelli Estes. Hosted by Dianne Griffiths

**Adult PF Invitation:** If Chaz Bono, Caitlyn Jenner, and bathroom laws have you feeling unsettled, or curious, or hopeful, or all three, you're not alone. Transgenderism raises important but often difficult questions about human sexuality and human community. Some of these same questions are raised by bi-genderism, in which a single person expresses two gender identities. On Oct. 2 at Adult PF, MCC member Ed Burke will share his story of being bi-gender. Ed will be present that evening as Lisa, a woman he has chosen to represent his feminine identity.

No matter your comfort level, please consider joining us for this unique opportunity to learn from a brother/sister in Christ. We'll gather at the Parker-Burgard home at 6:00 for snacks and conversation, then Ed/Lisa will begin the presentation at 6:30.



**Children's snacks needed for coffee hour.** The children look forward to having a little snack and juice while the adults have coffee and tea after service. However, the cupboards are emptying very fast. The kids like goldfish crackers, pretzels, cookies, graham crackers, juice and those little cups for little hands. Please leave your gifts in the kitchen with a note saying "Children's Snack".



**Morning Circle** invites the ladies of the congregation to their next meeting on Wednesday, October 12 at 11:00AM in Dineson Parlor. Pastor Jenn will share with us photos and reflections from this summer's Senior Pilgrim Fellowship Mission Trip to Henderson Settlements in Kentucky. Please bring a sandwich lunch and a donation for the Food Pantry. Contact Jackie Bleakney with any questions at [203-268-5275](tel:203-268-5275).

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**Trustees**

At our August board meeting the Trustees board approved the installation of a split air heat pump system for the three offices in the Rexford Building. Currently the three offices in Rexford (Melissa, Pastor Jenn and Debi's office) have electric base board heat and window air conditions in the summer. The new split air heat pump system we propose to install will provide both heat and air conditioning with a cost savings over our current system. The system will be furnished and installed by Sippin Energy Systems. Special thanks to Diane Griffiths and Rich Correll for all their work on the project.



**Prayer Partner** sign-ups forms can be found in Wilton Hall on the information board. Please leave completed forms in the side pocket. Being a prayer partner does not take a lot of time; just moment throughout your day. A thought about how they're doing, hoping that they have a great day, sending them a mental hug in support of whatever may be going on in their daily routine, praying that they find the goodness out of something small that can cheer them up or put a smile on their face. Sending them a card or note in the mail using the church's address as the return is also a nice and unexpected gesture. You can also seek them out before service starts and say "Hello", greet them during the passing of the peace or perhaps strike up a conversation while drinking tea or coffee in Wilton Hall.

Here are some testimonies from my 2016 participants:

*"I feel a connection to my prayer partner though I didn't know her well, I felt guidance of the Holy Spirit as I prayed each morning. Knowing also that someone was thinking of me in prayer brought me peace and joy."*

*"Being a prayer partner is an extraordinarily rewarding experience. Being able to know you are praying for someone as well as being prayed for is wonderful. Furthermore, it allows me to form a long distance bond between them and myself."*

*"It was a very good feeling to be able to make positive impacts on my prayer partner's life through prayer."*

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**Good News!!!**



**Congratulations** to William and Jody Zaleha on the birth of their son Samuel Henry on September 6<sup>th</sup>. Samuel is the great-grandson of Sue Zaleha

**Congratulations to** Ryan & Erin Rasmussen on their July 1<sup>st</sup> wedding. Ryan's proud parents are Laura & Mark Rasmussen

**It's time to do some Fall Cleanup in your junk drawers!!!** I am collecting old prescription glasses, cases and sunglasses. There will be a basket for them on the table during coffee hour. These recycled glasses are cleaned, evaluated and then sent to every corner of the globe. They will help a child read, an adult succeed in his job, a senior maintain her independence and provide a community with more opportunities to grow and thrive. Please contact Susie Cuseo at [203-268-0820](tel:203-268-0820) or [thecuseos@yahoo.com](mailto:thecuseos@yahoo.com) for more information or if you have any questions. The basket will be available for your donations until the end of October. Thank you very much for giving the gift of sight and for allowing someone to see the brightness of their future.





# **FREE Prevention, Education & Wellness Training**

Monroe Department of Community & Social Services

*Combining Education and Care to Save Lives ...*



**Thursday, October 6th & 13th**

5:00 pm - 8:00 pm

*Complimentary light dinner provided at 4:45 pm*

Chalk Hill Lecture Hall, 375 Fan Hill Road, Monroe, CT 06468

The Community Awareness Program (CAP) will provide 6 hours of training with professionals for individuals, community groups, families, coaches, faith based groups, business and anyone who would like more education on how to recognize, provide support and give assistance to kids and adults struggling with addictions such as alcohol, drugs, gambling, inhalant abuse, as well as many mental health issues facing us today including suicide. *Participants of both evenings will receive certifications for credits and suicide prevention (QPR) training.*

CAP is a program of the  
**State of CT Department of Mental Health & Addiction Services**  
*6 CEU credits are offered by CT DMHAS*

Seating is limited. RSVP by Thursday, September 22, 2016 at [capconference@aol.com](mailto:capconference@aol.com)

**Questions:** Kapriel Mouradjian - CAP Advisor  
[frkapriel@gmail.com](mailto:frkapriel@gmail.com)

Sometimes your world is

# Falling Apart

**September 11**

*From Fall To Hope*

**September 18**

*From Fear To Faith*



**September 25**

*From Evil To Good*

**October 2**

*From Past To Future*

**October 9**

*From Anger  
To Forgiveness*



**A Five-Week Sermon Series on  
Stories from Genesis and Exodus  
at The Monroe Congregational Church, UCC.**

## MCC Community Calendar

### Week of Sept. 18<sup>th</sup>

*Confirmand Bible Dedication*

10:00am Worship  
11:00am Deacons (Dineson), Trustees (4), CE (5)  
5:00pm Sr PF Leadership Meeting  
6:00pm Jr & Sr PF  
6:00pm Adult PF at the Parker-Burgards

### **Tues. Sept. 20<sup>th</sup>**

1:30pm Mustard Seed Sort & Tag  
7:00pm Bereavement Group (Dineson)  
7:00pm Council Meeting (Classroom 4)  
7:30pm Leaders meet with CT Conf Kent Siladi

### **Wed. Sept. 21<sup>st</sup>**

3:00pm Church Staff Meeting (office)  
6:30pm Youth Confirmation Class (Dineson)

### **Thurs. Sept. 22<sup>nd</sup>**

9:30am Bible Study (Dineson)  
12:00pm Young At Heart (Chip's, Monroe)  
7:15pm Adult Choir (Meetinghouse)

### Week of Sept. 25<sup>th</sup>

10:00am Worship  
6:00pm Jr & Sr. PF

### **Tues. Sept. 27<sup>th</sup>**

1:30pm Mustard Seed Sort & Tag

### **Wed. Sept. 28<sup>th</sup>**

3:00pm Church Staff Meeting (office)  
6:30pm Youth Confirmation Class (Dineson)

### **Thurs. Sept. 29<sup>th</sup>**

9:30am Bible Study (Dineson)  
7:15pm Adult Choir (Meetinghouse)

### **Sat. Oct. 1<sup>st</sup>**

*Happy 10 Year Anniversary with MCC, Will!*  
12:00pm MusicFest setup  
2:00pm-8:00pm MusicFest

### Week of Oct. 2<sup>nd</sup>

10:00am Worship with Communion  
11:15am Junior Choir (Meetinghouse)  
6:00pm Sr. PF (No Jr PF)  
6:00pm Adult PF at the Parker-Burgard home

### **Mon. Oct. 3<sup>rd</sup>**

7:30pm Rachel's Well (Dineson)

### **Tues. Oct. 4<sup>th</sup>**

1:30pm Mustard Seed Sort & Tag

### **Wed. Oct. 5<sup>th</sup>**

3:00pm Church Staff Meeting (office)  
6:30pm Youth Confirmation Class (Dineson)

### **Thurs. Oct. 6<sup>th</sup>**

9:30am Bible Study (Dineson)  
5 – 8pm DMHAS Mental Health Training (Chalk Hill)  
7:15pm Adult Choir (Meetinghouse)

### Week of Oct. 9<sup>th</sup>

*Baptism of Lina & Braeden Birn*

10:00am Worship  
11:15am Junior Choir (Meetinghouse),  
Lay Pastoral Visitation Training 1 (Dineson)  
6:00pm Jr & Sr. PF

### **Mon. Oct 10<sup>th</sup>**

*Office Closed - Columbus Day*

### **Tues. Oct. 11<sup>th</sup>**

1:30pm Mustard Seed Sort & Tag

### **Wed. Oct. 12<sup>th</sup>**

9:30am Retired Men's Breakfast (Dineson)  
11:00am Morning Circle (Dineson)  
3:00pm Church Staff Meeting (office)  
6:30pm Youth Confirmation Class (Dineson)

### **Thurs. Oct. 13<sup>th</sup>**

9:30am Bible Study  
5 – 8pm DMHAS Mental Health Training (Chalk Hill)  
7:15 Adult Choir

### **Fri. Oct. 14<sup>th</sup>-Sun. Oct. 16<sup>th</sup>**

*Senior PF Retreat to Silver Lake - Cedars*  
*Junior PF Retreat to Silver Lake - Pines*

### Week of Oct. 16<sup>th</sup>

*Guest Preacher, Will Duchon*

10:00am Worship  
11:00am Deacons (Dineson), Trustees (4)  
11:15am Junior Choir (Meetinghouse)  
6:00pm Adult PF at the Parker-Burgard home

### **Mon. Oct 17<sup>th</sup>**

3:45pm St. George's Supper  
7:30pm Church Council

### **Tues. Oct. 18<sup>th</sup>**

1:30pm Mustard Seed Sort & Tag  
7:00pm Bereavement Group (Dineson)

### **Wed. Oct. 19<sup>th</sup>**

3:00pm Church Staff Meeting (office)  
6:30pm Adult Confirmation Class (Dineson)

### **Thurs. Oct. 20<sup>th</sup>**

9:30am Bible Study  
5 – 8pm Wellness Fair (Chalk Hill)  
7:15 Adult Choir