



# THE MONROE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST STEEPLE

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Monroe, CT 06468

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**Office Hours:**  
Monday – Friday  
9:00a.m. - 3:30p.m.

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

**August 1, 2019**

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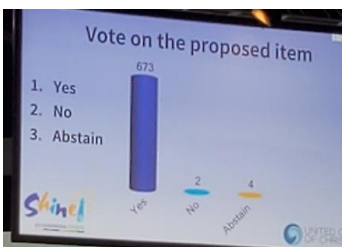
At the end of June, my daughter Cady and I had the wonderful opportunity to attend the United Church of Christ's Thirty-Second General Synod in Milwaukee, Wisconsin! Cady went as one of those elusive 'Young Adult' delegates with the Fairfield East Association. Her job was to attend early morning delegation meetings, and vote on important matters

coming before the church at large.

The theme for the 32nd General Synod was based on the scripture Matthew 5:16 *"In the same way let your light shine before others . . ."* GS is always an extraordinary event in the life of the Church, delegates and visitors experienced dynamic workshops, generative plenary sessions, inspirational worship, engaging youth activities, special banquets, and luncheons. Delegates conducted the business of the denomination and set priorities for our ministries. Keynote speakers offered illumination and insight into challenges that face our congregations and communities.



*Delegates applaud passage of  
Together As One*



*Voting on the Resolution*

I attended as the proponent of a resolution that had its beginning two years ago at an MCC deacon planning meeting, "Denouncing Acts of Violence, Hatred and Racism Carried out in the Name of Neo-Nazi and White Supremacist Ideologies". I was also able to sub in as a conference delegate because one of them became ill. The good news is that our resolution passed with 673 yes's, 2 no's and 4 abstentions (*not that I am competitive, but it gave me some satisfaction to see that of all*

*the resolutions ours had the lowest number of 'no' votes*)! The better

news is that the committee which worked on the resolution before presenting it to plenary made it better by adding the development of a national curriculum which will help local churches in the event they are threatened or harassed by these hate groups.

Another very important resolution was passed, which you might already know about: Together As One, which is the work of bringing together the historically regional Massachusetts, Rhode Island and CT. This is an important next step in becoming a Southern New England Conference. The folks who work at the



*We even took the occasional polka  
break! When in Wisconsin...*

conference level, along with the Boards of Directors, are settling into new leadership roles which should strengthen the overall mission and ministry of everyone involved.

I want to thank you all for your prayers and good wishes on this journey, it was truly an amazing moment in church history to be a part of!

*In peace, Pastor Jenn*

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## Trustees

### Capital Campaign for Beardsley Windows a Success!



The MCC Board of Trustees is launched and successfully completed a summer capital campaign to support the replacement of six windows in the older part of Beardsley Hall. This is the back part of the building that used to be the old Monroe Town Centre School and is now used by the Gingerbread School House and the Mustard Seed. The current windows in question date back to the 1800s, with single-pane glass lending little insulation. And because they

contain lead paint, they have been made inoperable and the Monroe Health Department has recommended their replacement.

The estimated cost to replace the six windows is \$5,000. The Gingerbread School House has committed to contributing \$1,000 to the project, and the Mustard Seed has committed \$1,000 as well. That left \$3,000 that we need to obtain funding for from the congregation. The great news is that **WE DID! In fact, thanks to your generosity, we have raised enough to meet our goal with an overage that we are applying to replacing the 30+ year old carpet!**

Thanks to the following people and groups who helped us meet our goal:

Gingerbread School  
House

Vaughan Askue &  
Arlene Redmond

Mark & Kate  
Barnhart

Jackie Bleakney

Ann-Marie & Brian  
Campbell

Shari Carrano

Wendy & Matt  
Colegrove

Judy & Paul Coward

Sue Crea

Dorothy Dralus

Rev. Jennifer & Clark  
Gingras

Nancy Hedine & Kyle  
Granello

Betty Heiney

Heather Henning

Carol & Tom Kelly

Kristina & Andrew  
Logan

Gay Muizulis

Gail & Bob Olson

Mary & Franklin  
Renz

Joyce & Gilles  
Rousseau

Marian Schmitz

Marilyn & Robert  
Schultz

Beverly & Al Shaffer

The Mustard Seed  
Shope

Lorrie Sippin

Rev. Sheldon &  
Nancy Smith

Susan & David  
Walker

Trees & John  
Whitbeck

Don Whiteley

June & Myron  
Wininger

Christine & Frank  
Wittenauer

Ann Zeiner

Thanks again for your generosity! *The MCC Board of Trustees*

Summer is here. While you may be on vacation, MCC will continue to need funds to support our ongoing operations. Please make sure to stay current on your pledge payments over the summer months. You can make your payment via the weekly Sunday collections, via electronic payment from your bank, or via the "Donate" section of our web site. Thanks for your support of MCC and enjoy your summer! In Christ's Service - MCC Stewardship Committee



If you'd like to **give online** during worship (or anytime), simply scan this QR code, which will take you to our VANCO electronic giving page. Thank you so much for your support!

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## Deacons

### **The Gospel Goes to Broadway: Summer Sermon Series**

Life is full of big questions, and people trying to find their answers. This summer, we will be exploring some of them by listening to some of musical theater's greatest hits and contemplating what the Spirit has to tell us through music, story, prayer and connections. Hope to see you there!

#### **August 4 - What's good?**

Philippians 4:1-9, Matthew 5:38-48

The Impossible Dream (Man of La Mancha), featuring vocalist Harrison Gilberti

#### **August 11 - Why do bad things happen to good people?**

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8, Ephesians 5:15-17

Sunrise, Sunset (Fiddler on the Roof), featuring Jack Campbell on cello and vocalist Mike Pfalzgraf

#### **August 25 - What really matters?**

Mark 12:28-34

You Will Be Found (Dear Evan Hansen), featuring vocalist Kelsey Kaminski

#### **September 1 - Is anybody out there?**

I Corinthians 13:1-8a; I John 4:7-12,19

Where is Love? (Oliver), featuring vocalist Jake Minsch

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## Christian Education



**Summer Sunday School:** We will be offering Summer Sunday school for children in 2<sup>nd</sup> grade and under on Sunday, August 11<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>. Children leave following the Children's Moment.

**God's People @ Play: Too Cool for School!** During this Lenten season we went on a journey to learn more about Communion in our Cross Generation "Come to the Table". This has been a wonderful and meaningful time and we have decided to continue this by trying something different in place



of our traditional Vacation Bible School. We will meet over four Wednesday evenings in July and August for a time of dinner, faith filled activities, fellowship, and lots of fun! Dates August 7<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM and are open to anyone that wants to attend. Whether you are 4 or 84 (or older or younger) this is for you! We will be having a fun and faith filled time with Jesus and some of his parables! Sign up in Wilton Hall. If you have any questions, please contact Debi at [debi@mcc-ucc.org](mailto:debi@mcc-ucc.org) or 203-444-6760.

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## Outreach



**It's that time again...the next St. George's supper is August 19th!** Please look for the poster in Wilton Hall to sign up to help. We have a variety of needs, including shoppers, and servers. Simply take a tag (or two!) and you will be making a difference for those in need. Please bring all food to the church by August 18<sup>th</sup> at 11am. If you take a tag and are unable to fulfill your commitment please contact the church office 203-268-9327 Or if you would like a tag but cannot make it to church please call Melissa in the office.

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## Fellowship

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

- ✚ **August 26<sup>th</sup>-7:30pm** The Huntress by Kate Quinn~Host: Peggy Villani in Dineson Parlor
- ✚ **September 16<sup>th</sup>-7:30pm** The Tattooist of Auschwitz by Heather Morris~Host Trees Whitbeck in Dineson Parlor
- ✚ **October 21<sup>st</sup>-7:30pm** Pachinko by Min Jin Lee~Host: Gayle Hammond in Dineson Parlor
- ✚ **November 18<sup>th</sup>-7:30pm** My Brilliant Friend by Elena Ferrante~Host TBD

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## Community News

### 2019 BIBLE READING MARATHON

You are personally invited to be a part of this powerful event!

When and Where? We will begin at 8:00am and end each day at 8:00pm starting Thursday August 1<sup>st</sup>, Friday August 2<sup>nd</sup>, and Saturday August 3<sup>rd</sup>. Christians gathering from all the local Churches of Monroe and surrounding towns will engage in reading the Bible – out loud – on the Monroe Town Green in the Gazebo.

How does it work?

- We have 18 – 2 hour time slots to fill over the three days
- Each reading team consists of 4 - 8 readers and each team needs to fill two - one hour time slots. Individuals are more than welcome to join any of the teams.
- You can reserve as many time slots as your church/group wants!
- A designated church/group point person is always helpful.
- Readers may use the Bible translation and language of their choice.
- Reserve early to get the time slots of your choice!



Who can participate? Anyone! The Bible Reading Marathon is ideal for churches, Christian schools, Youth groups, Bible study groups, Sunday school classes and all friends and family members who want to join your team! It is a great way to meet members from our local church community during the summer. All are welcome – from youth to seniors and in between!

Sounds great! How do I sign up? Call Betty Anne Casserati (from St. Jude's) 203-339-5687, e-mail: [bacasaretti@att.net](mailto:bacasaretti@att.net)

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### **Note from Donna Parratt**

*I would like to thank the congregation of MCC for making this such a wonderful church. There is so much love and joy and compassion; it truly is a family in all senses of the word. I am sorry to leave but grateful I was able to spend so much time with you.*

*With loving gratitude, Donna Parratt*



### **Note from Sue Zaleha**

*To my church family,  
Thank you, from the bottom of my heart, for all your prayers, cards and visits.  
They have meant the world to me and I am grateful for them.*

*Love, Sue Zaleha*

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## **Transitional Realignment of Staff Planned**



*Members of the three conference staffs together on retreat in February.  
By Tiffany Vail, Associate Conference Minister of Communications*

The staffs of the three Southern New England conferences will shift into a new, transitional structure for 2020, working together on teams aligned around their ministry and program areas rather than being separated by geography.

“As we create a new conference together we are moving towards aligning a staff model around the core values that are critical to our future life as the Southern New England Conference,” said Connecticut Conference Minister The Rev. Kent Siladi. “Our new staff configuration will be a great way for us to learn from one another and to align our passions and gifts with the core values.”

The three current Conference Ministers will shift their roles and responsibilities so that they each oversee staff teams that are oriented around various aspects of the new conference's [\*\*Vision, Mission and Purpose Statement\*\*](#). The three have agreed to stay on for a bridge year while a search is conducted for a new leader for the unified conference. (Related article: [\*\*New Conference Will Have New Leader\*\*](#), April 23, 2019)

Their roles will be as follows:

- Marilyn Kendrix will become the Bridge Conference Minister of Discipleship. She will work with the staff team that is focused on assisting churches in their work to *Make Disciples of Jesus Christ* (one

of the four main foci of the vision). This will include resourcing faith formation for all ages, outdoor ministries, communications, spiritual practice and spiritual care.

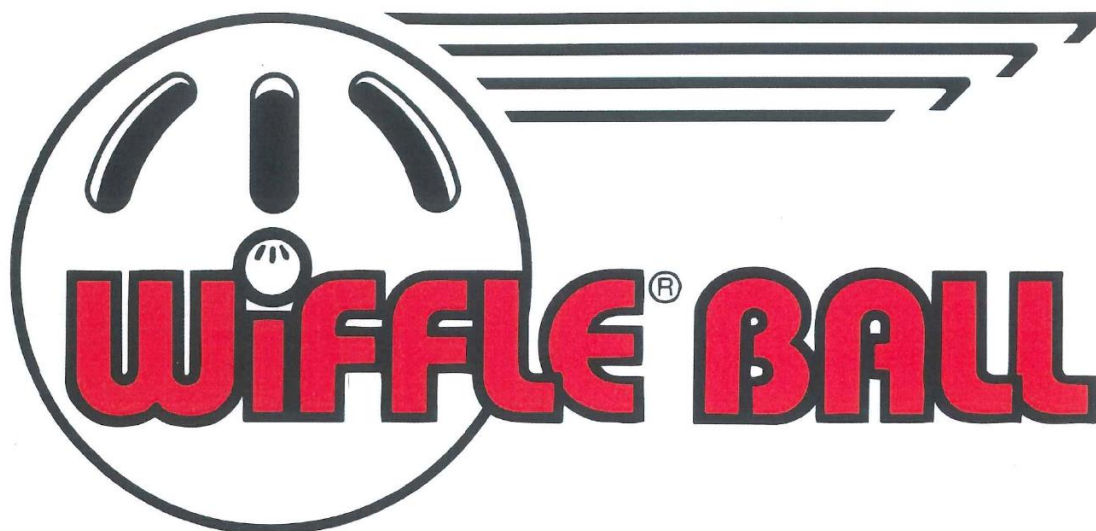
- Kent Siladi will become the Bridge Conference Minister of Love and Justice. He will work with the staff team that resources justice and witness ministries, lifted up in the *Making God's Love and Justice Real* focus of the vision. He will also work with the staff team that oversees financial management and development, and will take the lead on *Building Covenant Partnerships*, another of the vision's four core values.
- Don Remick will become the Bridge Conference Minister of Adaptive Change. He will work with the staff team that focuses on the piece of the vision that *Seeks to Bring New Life as Agents of Change*. This will include working with the staff currently serving the regions and associations. He will also work with the governance oversight of the new conference.

These changes will officially take effect on Jan. 1, 2020, when the Connecticut, Massachusetts and Rhode Island conferences are formally replaced by the Southern New England Conference ([the name is pending approval by Annual Meeting](#)). No jobs will be eliminated on Jan. 1 when the transitional structure goes into effect; the staff will become employees of the new conference, which will be operating under a single budget.

This is a transitional plan; a subcommittee of the new conference board is developing a staffing plan for 2021. That team will make a recommendation to the board, and the board intends to present it for information purposes at the [November Annual Meeting](#). The new staffing model will be implemented over the course of 2020-2021.

"The development of the new conference will be an evolution, not a flipping of the switch," said Massachusetts Interim Transitional Conference Minister The Rev. Don Remick.

There are no current plans to make changes to office locations. Staff members will continue to work out of their current offices, and their contact information will remain the same.



## **Come play in our first Wiffle Ball Tournament!**

**3 Leagues: Major—Age 15+; Minor—Age 15+; Family Fun—Age 8+  
5-8 players per team**



**All proceeds will directly benefit the Monroe Food Pantry.**

**When:** September 21, 2019, 8:00 AM—5:00 PM (Rain Date: September 22)

**Where:** Wolfe Park, 285 Cutlers Farm Road, Monroe CT

**Team Fee:** \$80 non-refundable donation to the Monroe Food Pantry  
(Senior Citizen/62+ team fee - \$40)

**Registration Deadline:** September 10, 2019

**To register for the event, please contact the Monroe Food Pantry Fundraising Committee at [mfpcommittee@gmail.com](mailto:mfpcommittee@gmail.com) or call 203-452-2817.**

**Check out the Monroe Food Pantry's Facebook page for more information!**

**Sponsored by**



## MCC Community Calendar

### **Week of Aug. 4<sup>th</sup>**

*Communion*

*The Gospel Goes to Broadway!*

*Featuring Man of La Mancha*

10:00 am Worship

5:00pm Senior PF

### **Tues. Aug. 5<sup>th</sup>**

9:30 am Mustard Seed Sort & Tag

### **Wed. Aug. 7<sup>th</sup>**

6:00pm God's People at Play/VBS

### **Week of Aug. 11<sup>th</sup>**

*The Gospel Goes to Broadway! Fiddler on the Roof*

10:00 am Worship

5:00pm Senior PF

### **Tues. Aug. 13<sup>th</sup>**

9:30 am Mustard Seed Sort & Tag

### **Wed. Aug. 14<sup>th</sup>**

6:00pm God's People at Play/VBS

### **Week of Aug. 18<sup>th</sup>**

*Guest Preacher: Rev. Susan Pfeil*

10:00 am Worship

5:00pm Senior PF

*Pastor Jenn is away on vacation*

*August 18-24*

### **Mon. Aug. 19<sup>th</sup>**

3:45pm St. George's Supper

7:30pm MCC Book Club (Dineson)

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

9:30 am Mustard Seed Sort & Tag

### **Week of Aug. 25<sup>th</sup>**

*The Gospel Goes to Broadway! Dear Evan Hansen*

*Baptism Joseph Forte*

10:00 am Worship

5:00pm Senior PF

### **Tues. Aug. 26<sup>th</sup>**

9:30 am Mustard Seed Sort & Tag

### **Week of Sep. 1<sup>st</sup>**

*The Gospel Goes to Broadway! Oliver*

10:00 am Worship w/communion

5:00pm Senior PF

### **Mon. Sep. 2<sup>nd</sup>**

*Office Closed in Observance of Labor Day*

### **Week of Sep. 8<sup>th</sup>**

10:00 am Worship

5:00pm Senior PF

### **Tues. Sept. 10<sup>th</sup>**

1:30pm Mustard Seed Sort & Tag

### **Wed. Sept. 11<sup>th</sup>**

9:30am Retired Men's Breakfast (Dineson)

11:00am Morning Circle (Dineson)

7:15pm Adult Choir

### **Thurs. Sept. 12<sup>th</sup>**

9:30am Bible Study

### **Week of Sep. 15<sup>th</sup>**

10:00 am Worship

5:00pm Adult & Senior PF

6:00pm Junior PF

### **Tues. Sept. 17<sup>th</sup>**

1:30pm Mustard Seed Sort & Tag

### **Wed. Sept. 18<sup>th</sup>**

7:15pm Adult Choir

### **Thurs. Sept. 19<sup>th</sup>**

9:30am Bible Study