



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

June 1, 2019



US soldier with liberated prisoners of the Mauthausen concentration camp. Austria, May 1945.

I had an opportunity to visit the Holocaust Museum in Washington, DC in preparation for my last sabbatical. I saw many displays that will live on in my memory for a very long time. One was the room full of shoes left behind by men, women and children who were led into the gas chambers. Another was an audio recording of soldiers who took part in the liberation of the concentration camps. They described what it was like to rescue such frail, emaciated people as they were nourished with a new hope of freedom.

On the eve of the Nazi holocaust, Austrian psychologist Viktor Frankl had a lot going for him. Not only was he at the height of his professional career, but he had received a coveted offer to travel to America and escape whatever horrors the Nazis had planned for him and his fellow Jews. His dilemma was that his parents did not have the proper papers to accompany him. Although they urged him to take the opportunity and get out, his conscience was troubled. Was it truly the most faithful course to seek freedom for himself, but leave them behind? He asked God in prayer to show him a sign.

Not long after that, Frankl's father brought home a piece of marble taken from a bombed-out synagogue. It contained a fragment of Hebrew writing Frankl recognized as the fourth commandment: "*Honor your father and mother.*" This, he concluded, was the sign he had been looking for. He decided to stay to care for his aging parents. Frankl knew that his decision carried an awful price. His parents eventually died in concentration camps, and he himself was sent to the infamous Auschwitz. Miraculously, he survived.

Actually, he did more than survive. His book, Man's Search for Meaning - his own personal study of what had led some camp inmates to succumb to despair and others to cherish a lively and vital hope - became a post-war best seller. Millions found meaning by reading about his experiences in the death camp. One of his more famous recollections reads:

"We who lived in concentration camps can remember the men who walked through the huts comforting others, giving away their last piece of bread."

Out of stark tragedy for millions, came hope for others who followed. Reminders of generous living, in the worst of all circumstances, can set an example for those of us trying to live a love-centered life. The action of caring for another human being at the darkest hour of our own despair is a way to find our way back to the light. May this summertime bring you many chances to share love and companionship!

In Christ's Love, Pastor Jenn

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## Christian Education



### *Congratulations to our 3<sup>rd</sup> Graders Receiving their First Communion on June 2nd*

*Sophina Everett*

*Amaiah Santiago*

*Eliana McEvoy*

*Madeline Wissink*

*Finlay Oatis*

*Megan Wissink*



The Board of Christian Education is looking for people to teach Summer Sunday School! There is a Signup sheet in Wilton Hall and the dates available are: **June 30<sup>th</sup>, July 14<sup>th</sup>, July 21<sup>st</sup>, July 28<sup>th</sup>, August 11<sup>th</sup>, August 18<sup>th</sup>**



### **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 are July 24<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> and 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.



### **Fruits of the Spirit**

June 2nd - NO Gatherings; 3rd graders receive Communion for the first time.

June 9th - ALL groups gather; last regular gathering

June 30th - Summer Sunday School begins

### **Jr. PF**

June 2nd - Regular gathering 6:00-7:30 PM

June 9th - Regular gathering 6:00-7:30 PM

June 16th - NO gathering; Strawberry Festival

June 23rd - End of year party

## Stewardship & Budget Update from the Trustees:



The 2019 Stewardship Campaign has received 92 pledges for a total of \$190,169. Unfortunately, this is \$10,000 short of the \$200,000 the congregation committed to for pledge income at the annual meeting. Members of the congregation made the observation that it would only take a little bit more from those participating to close the gap, we're not that far away from reaching the goal we set forth. Thanks to those who have increased their pledge already! If YOU are interested in increasing your 2019 pledge, or if you still want to submit a pledge, please contact John O'Rourke, MCC

Receiver at [jorourke224@gmail.com](mailto:jorourke224@gmail.com). While this year's anticipated shortfall may require us to draw more funds from our investments to fill the gap - the board of trustees will continue to work with MCC leadership to find ways to increase our income, reduce our costs and grow our endowment so that the church's future will be more secure. Please reach out to the Trustees if you have any concerns or questions



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!

**Thank you to Dave Allen, John O'Rourke, David Walker, Frank Wittenauer, Mark Barnhart, Bob Hammond, Rob McClenathan, Arlene Redmond, Clark Gingras, and Scott Young for coming out for the Annual Spring Work Day. Your help and dedication to MCC is truly appreciated.**

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## Deacons

**Calling All Graduates:** If you are graduating this year from high school, college, a university, graduate school, or another program, we want to recognize you and celebrate your achievements at the June 16<sup>th</sup> worship service. Please let the church office ([secretary@mcc-ucc.org](mailto:secretary@mcc-ucc.org), 203-268-9327) know if you or anyone in your family is graduating, along with the details of your degree, school, etc. Thank you!



## 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!

Who am I? (July 7)

- *Tomorrow (Annie)*, Jeremiah 1:4-10, 1 Peter 1:3-7

What's my purpose? (July 28)

- *Corner of the Sky (Pippin)*, Psalm 139:1-18

## What's good? (August 4)

- *To Dream the Impossible Dream (Man of La Mancha)*, Philippians 4:1-9, Matthew 5:38-48

## Why do bad things happen to good people? (August 11)

- *Sunrise, Sunset (Fiddler on the Roof)*, Ecclesiastes 3:1-8, Ephesians 5:15-17

Is anybody out there? (August 25)

- *Where is Love? (Oliver)*, I Corinthians 13:1-8a; I John 4:7-12,19

## What really matters? (Sep 1)

- *You Will Be Found (Dear Evan Hansen)*, Mark 12:28-34

*\*Dates may switch based on availability of vocalists and musicians, thanks for understanding!*


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## Outreach



**It's that time again...the next St. George's supper is June 17<sup>th</sup> !** 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 5<sup>th</sup> at 11am. If you take a tag and are unable to fulfill your commitment contact the church office 203-268-9327 Or if you would like a tag but make it to church please call Melissa in the office.**

Our **2019 CROP Walk** team of Trees Whitbeck, Jacob Parker-Burgard, Pastor Jenn and Sophina would like to thank all of YOU for making the cold, rainy day so worthwhile. Together, we raised \$2,423! Here's some of the things that money will do:

- \$1 = \$10 of groceries: U.S. Foodbanks can distribute \$10 worth of groceries for every \$1 given to them.
  - \$15 = 10 jerry cans: ensuring that water makes it into homes without contamination.
  - \$25 = 50 chicks: a self-propagating food source for extra nutrition and extra income.
  - \$50 = 150 meals in a food bank
  - \$100 = 222 pounds of food distributed to families in need.
  - \$125 = A pair of goats to provide milk, fertilizer, protein and income.
  - \$250 = Community seed bank: the seeds a community needs for their individual kitchen gardens.
  - \$1,000 = A pump so a community has access to clean water (and the training to use and maintain it!).
  - \$2,000 = All the assets needed for a sustainable garden, including access to water for irrigation, seeds, tools and training.
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- A photograph showing four people standing on a wet, paved surface in the rain. From left to right: a man in a black jacket and brown boots, a woman in a grey jacket and grey pants, a woman in a red jacket and grey shorts, and a young girl in a teal jacket and green patterned boots. They are all looking towards the camera. The background is slightly blurred, showing green grass and a dark fence.





## Strawberry Festival

Strawberry Festival



Mark your calendars for the **48th Annual Strawberry Festival June 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup>**! The MCC Strawberry Festival is the single largest church fundraiser and service event, providing funds for outreach, faith formation and church events throughout the year. It presents an opportunity for us to interact with the broader community as representatives of Monroe Congregational Church and - most importantly - it's a weekend full of laughter, fun and fellowship



**Crafter Co-Chair Needed!!!** This will be Kate Briggs' last year as co-chair of crafters. We are looking for a volunteer to help Katie Young with the 2020 Strawberry Festival. For more information and to shadow our chairs in this year's festival please contact Katie Young at [ktyoung1@gmail.com](mailto:ktyoung1@gmail.com).

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## Fellowship

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

- ✚ **June 10<sup>th</sup> - 7:30pm** The German Girl by Armando Lucas Correa~Host: Paula Haggstrom in Dineson Parlor
- ✚ **July 15<sup>th</sup> - 7:30pm** The Life She Was Given by Ellen Marie Wiseman~Host: Julie McClenathan in Dineson Parlor
- ✚ **August 19<sup>th</sup> - 7:30pm** The Huntress by Kate Quinn~Host: Peggy Villani in Dineson Parlor

**The Retired Men's Breakfast will be held June 12<sup>th</sup> at 9:30am** at King's Restaurant. Please call or email Gary Thompson to RSVP [mailglt@yahoo.com](mailto:mailglt@yahoo.com) or 203-261-4699



**Morning Circle Picnic June 5<sup>th</sup> 11am** at June Wininger's home. Please RSVP to June Wininger at 203-268-4422 and let her know what you will share at the table.

# Welcome New Members



Marc & Paul join us today by reaffirmation of faith. Marc and Paul work at Parker's Eatery. They live in Monroe. Marc enjoys traveling, reading, and comedy. Paul enjoys shopping, music, movies, wrestling, and traveling. They were married in the MCC Meetinghouse on February 28, 2019. Welcome Marc & Paul!

Marc & Paul Cardentey  
50 Nelson Brook Rd  
Monroe, CT 06468  
203-300-9296 (Marc)  
203-638-4641 (Paul)

## **Birthdates**

Marc November 27  
Paul June 15



Michele joins us today through reaffirmation of faith. She is a teacher and works for the Trumbull Board of Education. She lives in Trumbull with her children Nolan (17 yrs. old) and Megan (13 yrs old). Michele enjoys running, reading, snowshoeing, walking, and spending time with her family. Welcome Michele, Nolan, and Megan.

Michele Molloy  
26 N. Green Acres Lane  
Trumbull, CT 06611  
(203) 556-5135  
Email: michele.molloy4149@gmil.com

**Birthdate:**

Michele March 4  
Nolan November 13  
Megan May 11





Jenna joins us today through reaffirmation of faith. She is a physical education teacher and will begin working at Fawn Hollow in the fall. She lives in Monroe with her husband Stephen and children Thea (3 yrs. old) and Simon (1yr old). Jenna enjoys running, hiking, reading, and spending time with her family. Welcome Jenna, Stephen, Thea, & Simon

Jenna Rice  
29 Pepperidge Rd  
Monroe, CT 06468  
(203) 417-6862  
Email: jennaraerice@gmail.com

**Birthdate:**

Jenna May 5<sup>th</sup>  
Stephen February 15  
Thea November 19  
Simon October 13





Jim joins us today by transfer from Newtown United Methodist Church. He is an adjunct mathematics professor at four different universities. He lives in Monroe with his wife Karen Matysczak and step-children Julia and John Telep. Jim enjoys reading, history, and do-it-yourself projects. Welcome Jim!

Jim Brown  
8 Pepperidge Rd  
Monroe, CT 06468  
203-209-9452  
Email: j\_e\_brown68@hotmail.com

**Birthdates**

Jim November 28  
Karen October 15  
Julia July 4  
John December 31

## **MCC Community Calendar**

### **Week of June 2<sup>nd</sup>**

*Biscuit Communion*

*3<sup>rd</sup> Graders Receive Communion*

10:00 am Worship

5:00 pm Adult PF & Senior PF

6:00 pm Junior PF

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

1:30 pm Mustard Seed Sort & Tag

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

7:00 pm Adult Choir

11:00 am Morning Circle Picnic (June Wininger's home)

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

9:30 am Bible Study Year End Party (Dineson)

### **Week of June 9<sup>th</sup>**

*Confirmation Sunday*

8:45 am Deacons (Dineson)

10:00 am Worship

5:00 pm Senior PF

6:00 pm Junior PF

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

7:30pm MCC Book Club (Dineson Parlor)

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

1:30 pm Mustard Seed Sort & Tag

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

9:30 am Retired Men's Breakfast (King's Restaurant)

7:00 pm Adult Choir

### **Fri. June 14<sup>th</sup>**

Strawberry Festival Set Up

### **Sat. June 15<sup>th</sup>- Sun. June 16<sup>th</sup>**

Strawberry Festival

### **Week of June 16<sup>th</sup>**

*Strawberry Festival Sunday*

*Baccalaureate Sunday*

10:00 am Worship

12:00 pm Strawberry Festival

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

3:45 pm St. George's Supper

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

1:30 pm Mustard Seed Sort & Tag

7:00 pm Bereavement Group (Dineson)

### **Week of June 23<sup>rd</sup>**

*Preacher: Debi Mastroni-Kenyon*

10:00 am Worship

5:00 pm Senior PF

6:00pm Junior PF

### **Tues. June 25<sup>th</sup>**

1:30 pm Mustard Seed Sort & Tag

### **Week of June 30<sup>th</sup>**

*Guest Preacher: Rev. Susan Pfiel*

10:00 am Worship

5:00 pm Senior PF

### **Tues. July 2<sup>nd</sup>**

1:30 pm Mustard Seed Sort & Tag

### **Thurs. July 4<sup>th</sup>**

Office Closed in Observance of Independence Day

### **Week of July 7<sup>th</sup>**

*The Gospel Goes to Broadway! Featuring Annie*

10:00 am Worship

5:00 pm Senior PF

### **Tues. July 8<sup>th</sup>**

1:30 pm Mustard Seed Sort & Tag

### **Sat. July 13<sup>th</sup> through Sun. July 21<sup>st</sup>**

*Senior PF Mission Trip to Indianapolis*

### **Week of July 14<sup>th</sup>**

*Guest Preacher: Rev. Susan Pfiel*

10:00 am Worship

### **Mon. July 15<sup>th</sup>**

7:30pm MCC Book Club (Dineson Parlor)

### **Tues. July 16<sup>th</sup>**

1:30 pm Mustard Seed Sort & Tag

### **Week of July 21<sup>st</sup>**

*Guest Preacher: Rev. Susan Pfiel*

10:00 am Worship

### **Tues. July 23<sup>rd</sup>**

1:30 pm Mustard Seed Sort & Tag

### **Wed. July 24<sup>th</sup>**

6:00pm Vacation Bible School

### **Week of July 28<sup>th</sup>**

*The Gospel Goes to Broadway! Featuring Pippin*

10:00 am Worship

### **Tues. July 30<sup>th</sup>**

1:30 pm Mustard Seed Sort & Tag

### **Wed. July 31<sup>st</sup>**

6:00pm Vacation Bible School