

34 Church Street
Monroe, CT 06468
Tel.: (203) 268-9327
Fax: (203) 268-3153
www.mcc-ucc.org

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

Senior Pastor: Rev. Jennifer Gingras
Music Director: Will Duchon
Administrator/Bookkeeper: Diane Prall
CE Coordinator: Jeanette Cardentey
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>

December 1, 2021

Is There Room at the Inn?

He (or she) is a character not even mentioned in the sacred story... if Luke places the birth of Jesus in an "inn", then there must have been an innkeeper. We might be tempted to imagine this character in a negative light as someone who banished a pregnant woman to deliver her baby where the barn animals were kept.

But what if... since we are already engaging our imaginations, we thought of the innkeeper an entrepreneur? Not like the sharks on 'Shark Tank', but as someone who saw a problem and thought "outside the box" to solve it. Instead of believing "there's nowhere for this poor young mother to give birth," he offered another resource, because he knew "there has to be somewhere, and some way I can help!"

This Advent, many of our churches have been asking just these kinds of questions. Some are offering affordable office space to non-profits that work to alleviate society's problems, some are building affordable housing, some are offering after-school help, others food distribution. No one church can solve everything, but each one can do something - just like the innkeeper! Housing the holy work of Divine Love can happen in so many wonderful ways.

Let's invite one another to spend this Advent and Christmas seeing our church's mission in a new light... we believe the Light of Christ is shining on us, inviting us to become a beacon of hope to others. What one thing could we do (or expand what we already do) that could alleviate someone's suffering? How can this time of preparation inspire us to think bigger and beyond this holy-day season? We are called to "make room" in our inns - to create a welcoming space for the flourishing of humanity. That's what the inn, the stable, the manger, became that night, and so it remains still.

With hope, peace, joy and love to you and yours, *Pastor Jenn*



Ps. So, speaking of making room... I wanted to let everyone know that the Gingras's are moving out of the parsonage in December. We have loved our time living here, but our son Zack is finishing up his active duty commitment and moving back home this spring to attend Lincoln Tech and get his electrician's license. With the setup of the parsonage, it's not feasible for him to live with us for longer than an extended visit. In October we started looking for a home in Monroe we could afford that would accommodate all of us. We did not expect to find one so quickly! We will be moving to 220 Webb Circle (about 5 miles away, near Webb Mountain). We are taking the months of December and January to fully transition from one house to the other and do a deep clean. The Trustees are preparing to rent the parsonage by February 1 and will be showing the property to interested parties soon. Thanks so much for your support, and please let me know if you have any questions.



Annual Reports are due Tuesday, December 14th

Please submit your annual report to the church office by Tuesday, December 14th

Please call the church office with any questions: 203-268-9327

or email secretary@MCC-UCC.org



If you would like to order a
box of 2022 pledge envelopes
please contact Diane in the office,
268-9327

or secretary@MCC-UCC.org

-thank you!



This year's Advent theme is "The Inn—Housing the Holy."

Parking at Town Hall: In December, our parking lots tend to fill early on Sunday mornings. If you are able to park at Town Hall and walk over, so that we have space for the elderly, families with young children, and visitors, it would be much appreciated!

November 28, 2021

Advent 1: *Making Room (Hope)*; Jeremiah 33:14–16, Psalm 25:4–5

Guest preacher: Rev. Dr. Sheldon Smith

December 5, 2021

Advent 2: *A Place at the Table (Peace)*; Baruch 5:1–5, Philippians 1:9–11

Communion

Sr PF on retreat at Camp Hazen

5 pm Community tree lighting on the green, Jr PF will provide cocoa;
congregation, please bring goodies

December 12, 2021

Advent 3: *How Much Is Enough? (Joy)*; Isaiah 12:2–6, Luke 3:10–14

5 pm Jr PF caroling at a local nursing home

December 19, 2021

Advent 4: *A Room With a View (Love)*; Micah 5:2–5a, Luke 1:46–55

Children's pageant (in lieu of sermon; see details below)

Special Christmas coffee hour at 11:00 (please bring goodies)

5 pm Senior PF caroling

December 24, 2021

Christmas Eve: *The Inn*; Isaiah 9:2–7, Luke 2:1–7 [8–20]

No sign-ups this year, but masks are necessary (as they are for all services)

4 pm—Quiet, contemplative worship service

7 pm—Christmas Eve worship

11 pm—Christmas Eve lessons and carols

December 26

Christmas Casual Sunday: *Dwelling*; Colossians 3:12–17, Luke 2:41–52

Wear your Christmas sweaters!

January 2

2022 STAR words

Please join us in welcoming the newest members of our church community. These short introductions will help you to learn a little more about them. We hope you'll take the time to get to know them and their families personally, and tuck this insert into your church directory.

Cheri Irwin

118 Imperial CT, Trumbull, CT 06611

Cell: (817)682-0274

Email: cdirwin2@msn.com

Birthdate: Oct 3

Please welcome Cheri who moved to Trumbull last year after living most of her life in the Dallas Fort Worth area of Texas! Cheri has been married to her husband Bill for 46 years. They enjoy spending lots of time with their daughter Courtney who lives in Easton with her husband, Reed, and their 2 children, Dylan 13 and Phoebe 9. Cheri is a retired South West Airlines flight attendant. She is an amateur painter and enjoys walking and exercising. Cheri looks forward to attending adult classes, helping with holiday projects, art and decorating, the Strawberry festival and St George's Supper.



Julio Morales

1432 Monroe Turnpike, Monroe, CT 06468

Cell: (609) 772-0640

Email: julio.r.moralesNJ@gmail.com

Birthdate: February 15

Julio is newly married to our very own CE Coordinator and Jr PF Lead Advisor Jeanette Cardentey-Morales -congratulations to the happy couple! Julio is the VP of National Sales

for Vesta Home. He enjoys reading, mountain biking and lacrosse. Julio has many interests and skills that he is looking forward to sharing with MCC, including carpentry, electronics, and office skills –just to name a few. He expresses an interest in volunteering with Jr PF, various Outreach programs, Strawberry Festival, and helping with meals in time of need, as well as ushering and greeting on Sundays. Welcome Julio!

Carol Vielle

28 Highland Drive, Monroe, CT 06468

Home: (203) 268-2565

Email: CV31@gmail.com

Birthdate: March 31

Sadly, Carol's UCC church in Bridgeport closed – but lucky for us she found MCC and we are thrilled to have her! Carol is a retired nurse whose priority is still helping others, which is evident by her interest in working with MCC Outreach programs such as St George's Supper, The Mustard Seed Shop and holiday projects. Carol has already joined Morning Circle and enjoys all the new friends she is making. Carol has a daughter named Tracy who lives in Arizona with her boyfriend –also named Tracy!



Music Notes

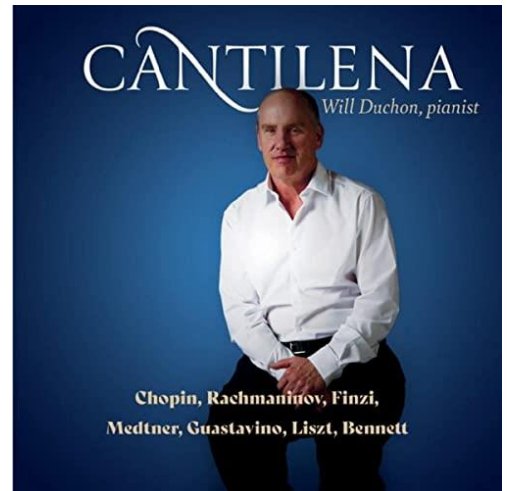


Welcome back, **Chancel Choir!** Thank you for sharing your gift of music with the congregation, we are grateful for you! If you'd like to join the choir, speak with Will Duchon. Rehearsals are Thursday nights at 7, warmups are on Sunday mornings at 9:15 am.

Dear MCC Friends,

I recently released a new recording of solo piano works. The album is titled "Cantilena", and includes music by Chopin, Rachmaninov, Liszt, and four other composers. I want to share this album with my church family, so please feel free to take a CD. They are available in the Narthex of the Meetinghouse as well as in the church office.

Will



Bell & Chime Choir

*IT'S TIME TO RING THOSE
BELLS/CHIMES ONCE AGAIN!
PLANS ARE IN THE WORKS
FOR FORMING A BELL (OR
CHIME) CHOIR.*

*Want to join? Please let Will Duchon know
(willduchon@gmail.com). Updates to follow!*



Christian Education



Weekly Prayer & Bible Study Group! Every Thursday from 9:30-10:30 in Dineson Parlor, everyone is cordially invited and welcome to join us! Bring your favorite Bible (whatever version you prefer) and a small notebook. Let Pastor Jenn know if you have any questions.

December 2	Tamar (Genesis 38:13-19, 24-27) & Mary (Luke 1:26-38)
December 9	Rahab (Joshua 2:1-22) & Elizabeth (Luke 1:39-45)
December 16	Christmas Party!
December 23	Off (Christmas Break)
December 30	Off (Christmas Break)

**"Almost Instant"
Christmas Pageant**

December 19th at 10 am in worship!
Rehearsal Sat, Dec 18th at 11 am.
Youth of all ages welcome to participate!
Sign up online,
or speak to Jeanette or Pastor Jenn

We are excited to announce that we will be having our annual Christmas Pageant this year on Sunday December 19th during our morning worship. If your child is interested in participating in the pageant you can sign them here:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0d44a8ac22a2fb6-christmas1>

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Our December Fruits of the Spirit Sunday School Schedule:

Sunday December 5 th	The Valley of the Dry Bones
Sunday December 12 th	Seek the Lord!
Sunday December 19 th	<i>Almost Instant Christmas Pageant</i>
Sunday December 26 th	No Sunday School, Merry Christmas!
Sunday January 2 nd	No Sunday School, Happy New Year!

This Month in Senior PF:

- December 3-5 PF on retreat at Camp Hazen! (attend Tree Lighting at 5pm!)
- December 12th – Relationships
- December 19th – Christmas Caroling in the Community!
- December 26th – No PF, Merry Christmas!
- January 2nd – Classic PF



*Pre-Order your
Christmas Wreathes
from Senior PF*

See us at Coffee Hour!

\$15 for 12", \$20 for 16", bows \$2

*Wreathes locally sourced from Jones Farm,
should be ready for pickup by Dec 1.*

Please make checks to MCC Sr PF

Memo: Wreath Sale



Our December Jr PF Schedule:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| Sunday, December 5 th | - Christmas Tree Lighting (Monroe Green) |
| Sunday, December 12 th | - Service (TBD) |
| Sunday, December 19 th | - Epiphany Party (Wilton Hall) |
| Sunday, December 26 th | - No Jr PF, Merry Christmas! |
| Sunday, January 2 nd | - No Jr PF, Happy New Year! |



With your help, JrPF collected & donated 392 Lbs of food to the Monroe Pantry!!!



We are very proud of this amazing group!

Deacons



Flowers for Worship: Would you like to honor or remember a loved one, or celebrate a milestone? You can do so, while also helping Monroe Congregational Church continue its tradition of fresh flowers on the communion table. Please review the available slots on Sign Up Genius and click on the button to sign up. If you do not have access to a computer, call Diane in the office 203-268-9327, and she will help you sign up!

You may choose to arrange flowers from your garden, purchase an arrangement, or send a check (\$25) to Monroe Congregational Church (memo: "flowers" & the date) or use our website to pay online, and we will order for you. If you are supplying the flowers yourself, please set them up between 9:30am and 9:45am, before worship. Thank you!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C48ADAC2CA5FEC61-flowers>

Trustees

Rexford House Painting Update!

Thanks to your support, we were able to raise \$11,710 toward the \$13,020 cost of painting Rexford House. The work was started mid-November –check out the progress thus far! Thank you everyone who donated toward this much needed maintenance of our MCC campus!



Heartfelt THANKS TO OUR VOLUNTEERS!

Dave Allen and the board of trustees would like to thank everyone who came out in November to beautify and maintain our church campus. Whether you raked, trimmed, cleaned, replaced or fixed something on our long list of needs –you are greatly appreciated.

Meant to come but missed the date?
Please call Dave **203-767-0883** to see what is left on our fall list –thank you!

2022 Stewardship Campaign: Rooted in Love



Whether you are a first-time visitor or long-time community member, our church changes lives by answering God's call to love. In countless ways, big and small, we support each other through joys and times of loss and grief. Our beloved Monroe Congregational Church welcomes those who've felt disconnected and isolated from God and their neighbors, making the world a kinder place, one small act at a time.

The work within and beyond our church can happen because of the generous financial and volunteer support of our community. Because of you, our church community is rooted in love, to share God's good news. While there are many ways large and small to support the congregation, our annual stewardship campaign, which began Sunday, November 7th, provides us

a chance to think in a prayerful way about the choices we make in support of the church.

Our goal this year is to increase our pledge base by 10%, so that we can decrease our reliance on the endowment. We can reach it if those who have not pledged in the past join their neighbors and friends and submit a pledge – and/or – if those who already pledge increase theirs by 10%. Giving is an individual decision, and we are grateful for all the gifts of time, talent and treasure that you and your household contribute to MCC.

We hope that you will respond by completing and returning an estimate of giving card for 2022 in the plate or through the mail. Thank you for prayerfully considering how to financially support the Monroe Congregational Church in 2022.

To date we have received 54 pledges for a total of \$143,140.

~ Your Stewardship Committee, John O'Rourke (Receiver), Diane Prall, Rev. Jenn Gingras



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!

Outreach



Interfaith Partnership for Refugee Resettlement

Working closely with IRIS (Integrated Refugee & Immigrant Services), The Interfaith Partnership for Refugee Resettlement (IPRR) in Newtown co-sponsors refugee families upon their arrival to the United States. They are committed to helping each family learn English, procure employment, enroll in school and become productive and independent community members.

IPRR will soon be sponsoring an **Afghan family, one of the special visa holders from our military operation there**. They are looking to build a very large team of volunteers to settle this next family in the greater Danbury area. They have several committees to be a part of. The time commitment varies, anywhere from 1-12 months.

- House Search Committee
- Housing Setup Committee
- Transportation Committee
- Driving Education and License Sub-Committee
- Interpreter Committee
- Family Finances Committee
- Employment Committee
- Cultural Integration Committee
- Youth Education Committee
- Adult ESL Committee
- Healthcare Committee
- Childcare Committee
- Fundraising Committee
- Technology Support
- Calendar Coordinator
- Volunteer Coordinator

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact: Elaine Sleath, Volunteer Coordinator at elainsleath@yahoo.com . For more information contact: Cindy Dunn, Co-Chair of IPRR at cindylou722@gmail.com or Rich Stein, Co-Chair of IPRR at itradeoptions@tradelink.net



St George's Supper – Slay Hunger! Monday, December 20

Items needed:

- 10 turkey & cheese wheat bread sandwiches (x3)
- 10 ham & cheese wheat bread sandwiches (x2)
- 12 apples (x4)
- 25 packs of chips or snack pack (x2)
- 25 cereal bars (x2)

Sign up Link <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F054AADAF2EA2F85-stgeorges4>

Please consider signing up to help us serve those in need. All items need to be delivered to the MCC kitchen by 3:00 pm on December 20th. Sandwiches may be placed in the refrigerator. Please contact Stacy at 203-500-1279 if you need to help with sign-up or if you have questions. Thank you!



**Christmas is coming!
What can you get the person who
has everything?**



Heifer International is an organization where your pocket change helps to send animals to families. Giving these animals is like giving a family a small business where wool, eggs, milk and more can sustain them and the offspring that come from those animals can be given to other families giving them a hand up, increase access to medicine, school, food and a sustainable livelihood. Other donations from Heifer International are seeds, irrigation pipes, water for life, gardener's gift baskets and Biogas stoves for entire villages. The collection jar will be on the serving table during coffee hour. Please

contact Susie Cuseo with any questions or comments at thecuseos@yahoo.com or 203-268-0280. **Become a part of the grand mission of ending hunger and poverty while caring for the Earth with your spare change.** For more information, please visit this site: [Heifer International Gift Catalog](#) | [Heifer International](#)



Many hands make light work.

Help Wanted at the Mustard Seed Thrift Shoppe!

We sort, tag and hang donated merchandise on Tuesdays at 1P. Just come down and the ladies will show you what to do. If you are free on Fridays at 10-12:30 or 12:30-3 or Saturdays from 10-12 or 12-2, we could use your help manning the counter. It's easy to do: come during business hours and someone will lead you thru the process of opening/closing. I can also provide you with a to-do list with all the duties. It's fun to help out the Shoppe, meet the community who shops and it's easy to do. Please contact Susie Cuseo at 203-268-0280 or thecuseos@yahoo.com with any questions or comments.

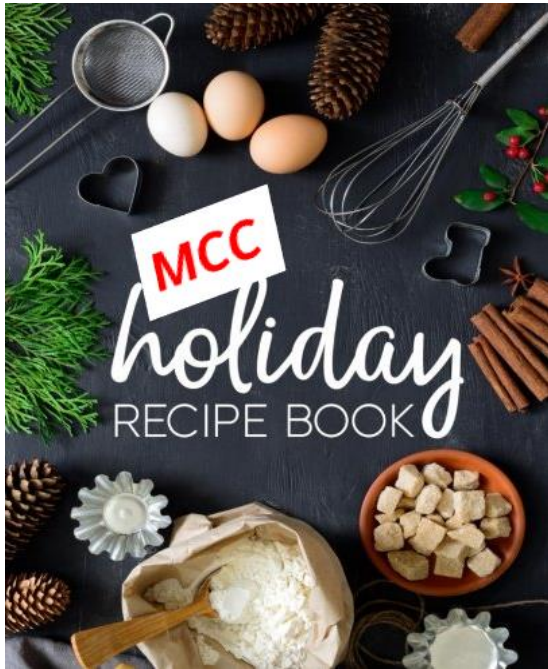
Fellowship

Special Christmas Coffee Hour

December 19, 11 am Wilton Hall

Join us for a special Christmas coffee hour, to share some fellowship and holiday cheer! If you are able to bring a something to share, please drop it off in the kitchen between 9-9:45 that morning, thank you!





With Christmas right around the corner, we would like remind you of the MCC Holiday Cookbook. If anyone would like to contribute a recipe (or another great recipe) I will be combining them into last year's cookbook. Please feel free to share any holiday recipes - Easter, Thanksgiving, Memorial Day, Mother's Day, Father's Day etc....

Please include a little note sharing why this recipe is special to you and a picture if you like. Our hope is that over time we will have an awesome book to get printed and sell as a fundraiser. E-mail your recipes to michelle.cardentey@gmail.com and I will format them and merge them into last year's book!

Thank You On Behalf of Your Fellowship Board,
Michelle Cardentey

MORNING CIRCLE

Morning Circle invites the ladies of the congregation to our last meeting of the year on Wednesday, December 8 at 12PM for a holiday luncheon at My Place in Newtown. We will meet in the church parking lot between 11:30-11:45 if you'd like to carpool. For those who took tags for the Giving Tree,

please have wrapped gifts with attached tags in the church office by Sunday, November 28th. Thank you in advance for your kindness and generosity to those who do not have these little comforts.

At our last meeting, the ladies put together 25 bean soup jars for the Food Pantry. This was a successful project with the help of Stop & Shop who donated the beans while The Common Bond Market in Huntington provided a 10% discount on the seasonings. The numerous volunteers made light work of putting together these beautiful jars.



Morning Circle will not meet during the months of January and February. Please contact Susie Cuseo with any questions, comments or suggestions at 203-268-0280 or thecuseos@yahoo.com.

On behalf of the ladies of Morning Circle, have a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday. May it be safe and yummy. We have so much to be grateful for.

Fall Adult PF 1st & 3rd Sundays 5pm –all adults are welcome



Adult PF will have its final meeting of 2021 on December 5. We will conclude this first part of our study of Genesis with chapter 11, which includes the story of the tower of Babel. This will set us up in January for diving into the story of Abraham—God's attempt to do a new thing. It's not too late to join us—just show up at the Parker-Burgard home (274 Wheeler Road) at 5:00.—Don Parker-Burgard



MCC Book Club is open to all church members.

For more information, please call Paula Haggstrom 203-452-0850
email: pjsh55@gmail.com We will continue meet via Zoom.

December **15th**, 7 pm -*The Henna Artist* by Alka Joshi, 340 pg, Host: Arlene Redmond

January 12th, 7 pm -*The Exiles* by Christina Baker Kline, 389 pg, Host: Linda Fracasini

February 9th, 7 pm - *Slow Fire Burning* by Paula Hawkins, 316 pg, Host: Gayle Hammond



Young at Heart will not meet in December. Many members are grandparents who will be busy those holiday months. Next luncheon will be in January. Young at Heart wishes all a Blessed Christmas.

Jackie Bleakney would like to thank everyone for the kindness expressed to her during her time of recuperation after surgery.

*A heartfelt
Thank You ♥*



The Monroe Congregational Church, UCC
& St. Peter's Episcopal Church
cordially invite you to:

Lighting the Christmas Tree: A Community Celebration

Sunday, December 5, 2021 • 5 PM
Monroe Centre Green



Dress warmly, bring a flashlight,
and join us after for cocoa and
cookies in Rexford House at the
Monroe Congregational Church



CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

Help us add a splash of red to
the Meetinghouse this Advent!
Order by Dec 15th for dedication
in the Christmas Eve bulletin.
Cost is \$25.



Christmas Poinsettia Order Form



Quantity	Cost Each	Total Cost
	\$ 25.00	

Given by (your name): _____

In Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____

In Celebration of: _____

Other: _____



*A check for the total amount, made payable to Monroe Congregational Church, may be placed in the offering plate or mailed to the church office (34 Church Street).

Orders must be placed no later than Wednesday, Dec. 15th, 2021 to ensure dedication in the bulletin by December 24th. Please be sure to write "Poinsettias" on the memo line of your check.



Thank you and have a blessed holiday!

You may also place your poinsettia order via Signup Genius!
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C48ADAC2CA5FEC61-christmas>

Dear MCC Family:

I hope your Thanksgiving was good for your soul (as well as your body). Despite the difficulties we are all still facing, we all have a great deal to be thankful for, including our wonderful, dedicated MCC staff.

One of our annual MCC Christmas traditions is a year-end holiday gift of appreciation to our staff (Pastor Jenn, Will Duchon, Diane Prall and Jeanette Cardentey-Morales).

In addition, this year, we want to recognize the work Scott Young has done over the last year and a half. His technical brilliance, dedication and professionalism ensured there was a polished, professional worship service to enjoy online by those unable to attend worship and by people who were able to find us online for the first time and join MCC.

Your gift in any amount will combine with others and will help show our appreciation for all Jenn, Will, Diane, Jeanette, and Scott have done for every one of us – often behind the scenes, behind the pulpit, behind the desk, behind the video camera, in front of the children...

Please consider a contribution in any amount as a gesture of support for this outstanding team.

1. **Online is the best way**, because it's hassle-free and it's done right away!
 - a. Go to the MCC website "Donate" page (<http://www.mcc-ucc.org/donate.html>)
 - b. Click [To Donate through VANCO, Click Here](#).
 - i. If you don't have a login and profile set up already, it's easy and you can use it for your pledge or other donations to MCC.
 - ii. Scroll down to the "Other" block and then follow the prompts.
 - c. Write 2021Staff Gift in the Notes box so we know what it's for.
2. **By check:** Write your check to MCC and write 2021 Staff Gift in the memo line.
 - a. You can *mail* that to Receiver, MCC, 34 Church St., Monroe, CT, 06468,
 - b. Or *drop it off* in the office in the Receiver mailbox.
 - c. Or *put it in the collection plate* on Sunday (be sure to indicate "2021 Staff Gift").

This week is a good time to do it, before we get occupied with trees, gifts, parties, pies, cards...

We will recognize the team with an announcement at our Christmas Coffee Hour – one of the loveliest events of the year.

May the peace of the Advent and Christmas season be with you,

Arlene Redmond, Moderator



Elisha's Corner

By Gary Thompson, Church Historian

Our First Prudentialist, Timothy Willcockson

In 1761, when the Memorial petitioning the establishment of the New Stratford Parish was signed, our final Prudentialist, Timothy Willcockson, was fifty-one, and was also the half-brother of Moderator David Willcockson. Timothy was the son of Elizabeth Tomlinson, the first wife of their father, Lt. John Willcockson. David was the son of their father's third wife, Deborah Brinsmade. Contrary to the reference made in David's biography, Timothy was not a signer of the Memorial. It was his other half-brother, John, who signed, instead; a curious fact since Timothy, a well established farmer with over 100 acres on Bagburn Hill Road near Boys Halfway River, was seven years older than David and ten years older than John.

At the age of twenty-nine he married twenty year old Abigail Platt of Stratford. They had two daughters and one son. The second daughter, Abigail, born May 5, 1743, died the following day. Their third child, Timothy, Jr. was born the following year on July 22, 1744, but his mother died eight days later; probably as a result of child birth. Timothy's first daughter, named Joanna, was only three years old at the time. So, as was customary, Timothy arranged for his marriage to twenty-five year old Hannah Brinsmade of Stratford one year later on July 4, 1745. Hannah was the widow of Abraham Hawley, son of Nathan Hawley, who had died April 10, 1743. They had married only two years earlier and had no children. The year following her marriage to Timothy, though, she gave birth to a daughter whom they named Abigail; true to the custom of naming the next daughter after the previously deceased daughter. Unfortunately, Hannah died that same year, again probably the result of child birth. Of these three children, only the two daughters survived their father. Timothy, Jr., who married Elizabeth Birdseye, died eleven years before him in 1786, with no known heirs.

There is no further account or record found for any additional marriages or any other children to Timothy Willcockson. Yet his Probate records filed in Hartford in 1797 did give reference to a surviving widow. A £200 bond (\$6,000 today) was filed in the Hartford court by bondee Elizabeth Willcockson, Timothy Solomon Wells, and John Judson – all three from "Huntington [the New Stratford Parish] - and John Wells of Stratford". Elizabeth could have been his eighty-three old sister, or the name of his widow, or the widow of son Timothy, Jr. It was filed on May 22, 1797, eighteen days following Timothy's death, with the promise to conduct a "thorough, complete, and accurate inventory of his personal and real estate within two months" (by July 22, 1797). No will was recorded. Neither are there any records to indicate any other surviving children or additional marriages.

In an agrarian society such as then in New Stratford Parish a large family was an economic asset, albeit the cost of raising so many children. Without them to work the farm the head of household would have had to supplement the needed labor with paid hands or, as was commonly practiced, with indentured or slave labor. It seems from the available records that Timothy Willcockson succumbed to the realities of the time. His estate inventory listed one Negro Women, named "Peg", one Negro child age two, named "Bose", one Negro boy, named "Adolphis", and at least seven additional unnamed slaves. He was land wealthy with nearly 180 acres; his personal estate was valued at \$4,700 in today's dollars; his real estate at just over \$40,000 in today terms. His existing debt was recorded at £204 (\$6,200 today). Nearly half of that was owed to Timothy Solomon Wells, bondee to his estate. The debt was resolved from the sale of some personal effects and land acreage. The distribution of the property was divided into thirds; the dwelling with barns, additional acreage on "Webb land" on Barn Hill next to his brother David, and a

portion of property at Paul's Pond went to the "widow". She probably got title to the ten slaves as well. The remaining portions of land comprising the homestead, "Webb land" and Paul's Pond were divided between surviving daughters, Joanna Wells, who was married to Capt. David Thompson Wells, and to Abigail Judson, wife of John Judson, bondee of his estate.

Timothy Willcockson remained on the "Committee' for the Societies prudentials until the end of 1765. The Society minutes in our archives do not refer to him after December 2, 1765. The ancestry of Timothy's family is obviously the same as indicated for his half-brother, Monitor, David Willcockson. His great-great grandfather, John William Birdseye Wilcoxson, came from Killingworth, Northumberland, England to Concord, MA and then to Hartford/Weathersfield, CT in 1639 and on to the Stratford (Cupheag) settlement in 1641 with his father, William Wilcoxson who was born in St. Albans, Hertfordshire, England in 1601. John William at age twenty-nine was among the Stratford settlers that invested in the Long Hill Purchase of 1662 that bought the land that became White Hills and Monroe from the Native Americans living along the Housatonic River. He died in Stratford on March 19, 1690. His father, William, died in Stratford on November 28, 1652, after raising a family of nine sons and six daughters.

The five men chosen on June 21, 1762, *"to be a Society Comit-ee to take care of ye Prudentials of Sd Society for ye year Ensuing"*, Henry Hawley, Samuel Beardslee, William Hubbell, Nathan Booth, and Timothy Wilcockson, were highly respected civil, as well as religious leaders of the New Stratford Parish. By 1765, the Society minutes referred to them as the Society Committee, which, along with the Moderator comprised the governing body of the settlement and the guiding leadership for its congregation. Complementing them was a committee of five men chosen *"to Provide a Minister or Ministers to preach ye Gospel among (them)."* They were the "pulpit suppliers", and they set in motion what evolved into the "deaconate". It will be their families' origins that we will uncover next.

**To all the faithful visitors to Elisha's Corner, and to all who aren't
Have a Very Merry and Happy Christmas
And
The most Delightful and Prosperous New Year ever.**





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

Frank	Wittenauer	12/02	Connor	Halloran	12/18
Jeremy	Young	12/03	Jennifer	Halloran	12/18
Matthew	Colegrove	12/06	Lynda	Bauer	12/21
Larry	Wissink	12/06	Trevor	Rooney	12/22
Bill	Allen	12/11	Donna	Parratt	12/23
Lisa	Burke	12/11	Ashley	Prall-Lauren	12/23
Kiersten	Rooney	12/11	Dana	Firmender	12/24
Judy	Elmendorf	12/13	Christopher	McHugh	12/24
Daniela	Gerhard	12/13	Kirsten	Crosnier	12/27
James	Perrone	12/13	John	O'Rourke	12/27
Kathryn	Maiolo	12/14	Leanne	McEvoy	12/28
Paulette	Obertz	12/14	Maria	Barresi	12/31
Ryan	Firmender	12/15	Janet	Haringa	12/31
Tom	Briggs	12/17	John	Telep	12/31



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

Richard & Lynn Draus⁽⁰⁴⁾ John & Cindy O'Rourke⁽⁰⁷⁾
Judy & Donald Elmendorf⁽¹⁶⁾ Linda & David Rooney⁽¹⁷⁾
Susan & David Walker⁽²⁰⁾ Jonathan & Vida Stone⁽²²⁾
and Vinay & Elizabeth Sampson⁽²⁹⁾

MCC Community Calendar

Pastor Jenn is on Vacation Until Dec 2

Week of December 5th

Advent Communion

10:00 am Worship

5-6:30 pm Jr PF

5:00 pm Adult PF

5:00 pm Community Tree Lighting

Tue. December 7th

1:00 pm Mustard Seed Sort and Tag

Wed. December 8th

12:00 am Morning Circle Christmas Lunch
(My Place)

6:30 pm Confirmation (Dineson)

7:00 pm Book Club Zoom

Thur. December 9th

9:30 am Bible Study (Dineson)

7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal

Week of December 12th

10:00 am Worship

11:30 am Trustees

5-6:30 pm Jr PF

5:00 pm Senior PF

Tue. December 14th

1:00 pm Mustard Seed Sort and Tag

Wed. December 15th

6:30 pm Confirmation (Dineson)

Thur. December 16th

9:30 am Bible Study Christmas Party
(Dineson)

7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal

Week of December 19th

10:00 am Worship

Christmas Coffee Hour

5-6:30 pm Jr PF

5:00 pm Senior PF Caroling

5:00 pm Adult PF

Tue. December 21st

1:00 pm Mustard Seed Sort and Tag

7:00 pm Bereavement Group

Thur. December 23rd

7:00 pm Choir

Fri. December 24th

Christmas Eve Worship

4:00 pm Contemplative Service

7:00 pm All Ages Service

11:00 pm Service of Lessons & Carols

Sat. December 25th

Christmas

Week of December 26th

10:00 am Worship

Christmas Casual Sunday

Diane on vacation Dec 27- 31 Office Closed

Tue. December 28th

1:00 pm Mustard Seed Sort and Tag

Wed. December 29th

6:30 pm Confirmation (Dineson)

Thur. December 30th

7:00 pm Choir

Fri. December 31st

New Year's Eve -Office Closed

Week of January 2nd

Communion Sunday - Star Words

10:00 am Worship

5:00 pm Senior PF

5:00 pm Adult PF

Tue. January 4th

1:00 pm Mustard Seed Sort and Tag

7:00 pm Outreach

Wed. January 5th

6:30 pm Confirmation (Dineson)