

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

<p>Office Hours: Mon. 9am – 5:30pm Wed. (remotely) 8am - 6pm Fri. 9am – 3:30pm</p>

Senior Pastor: Rev. Jennifer Gingras
Music Director: Will Duchon
Administrator/Bookkeeper: Diane Prall
CE Coordinator: Jeanette Cardentey-Morales
Church e-mail: secretary@mcc-ucc.org

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



THE MONROE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
STEEPLE

February 1, 2023

Dear Friends,

I was raised in church. If the lights were on, my family was probably there. If the lights weren't on, we likely turned them on. Some of my greatest memories as a child and teenager are from being at North Madison Congregational Church and with the wonderful people there that helped raise me.

We would have church potlucks that had the best food! And while my parents were working in the kitchen and cleaning up, my friends and I explored the building and climbed the trees outside. There were 5 or 6 couples about my parent's age range who had kids around my age, and our families felt more like we were related than not. I had many "grandparents" who were interested in my life and would ask how things are going and promise to pray for me.

These experiences reinforced the messages I was learning in Sunday School and worship about a loving God, the church, and how we are to treat one another. Church family is not just something we say, it is something we create and build together.

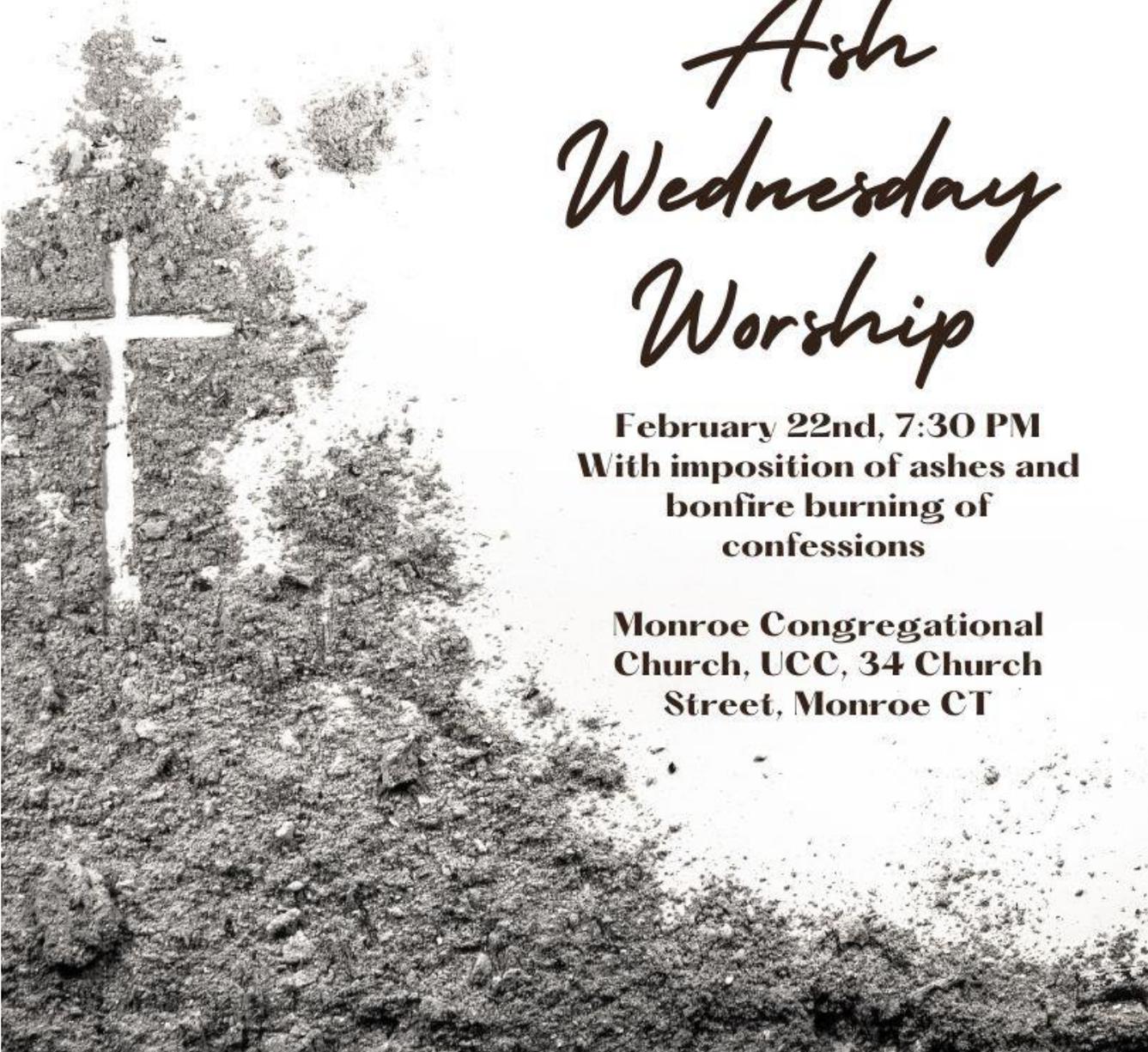
Our community has undergone many challenges and disruptions in the past 3 years, but through it all we've stayed connected and vital. This spring, you will hear about many various opportunities to gather and serve here at MCC. I want to encourage you to take the opportunity to get involved, if you're not already! It is definitely worth both your time and effort. I'd love to sit down with you and talk about how enriching it is to make new connections, and where your interests and the communities needs meet.

2023 is here and it will be filled with blessings and challenges for sure. We have just celebrated Emmanuel—God with us. We know that whatever comes, we will not be alone. God will be with us and so will our church friends and family. Thanks be to God!

Blessed to share the journey, Pastor Jenn

CHURCH *is not*
A BUILDING YOU GO TO,
IT IS *a family* YOU BELONG TO

Deacons



*Ash
Wednesday
Worship*

**February 22nd, 7:30 PM
With imposition of ashes and
bonfire burning of
confessions**

**Monroe Congregational
Church, UCC, 34 Church
Street, Monroe CT**



DRIVE-THROUGH ASHES TO GO

Come receive ashes and a
blessing to begin your Lenten
journey.

You don't have to be a church
member, or even step out of
your car!

All are welcome, always.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22ND

12 PM - 1 PM

THE MONROE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UCC
34 CHURCH STREET, MONROE CT

LENTEN LABYRINTH WALK

Sunday, February 26 * 11 am - 12 pm

Wilton Hall

Please bring warm socks or house shoes



2/26/23 Lenten Labyrinth Walk

Four years ago, a fabric labyrinth was constructed at MCC. The project was financially unwritten by a Transformational Grant from the Fairfield East Association. On **Sunday, February 26th the Labyrinth will be set up for use in Wilton Hall following morning worship.** It will be available until noon.



Labyrinths come in all different shapes and sizes; they can be huge like the one in the floor of the Chartres Cathedral (40 feet across), or so small they can be held in one's hand. Some have a classical design and others take their form from nature; they are made from many different materials – stones, tiles, wood, canvas and paint. Labyrinths (as opposed to mazes) are “unicursal” meaning they utilize a single course or path. Once you are in the Labyrinth, simply follow the path; there are no choices to make and you cannot get lost.

If you stay on the path, you will always arrive at the center.

A Walking Prayer using a Labyrinth has three movements:

1. As one moves toward the center of the labyrinth, focus on letting go of worldly attachments or coming to God with a question.
2. Linger at the center, spend time reflecting on your relationship with God and praying.
3. Eventually, there will be a need to move out into the world again. As you leave the way you came, may you complete your journey refreshed and renewed.

History: Labyrinths were used by many other cultures for many different reasons; good fortune, protection, empowerment, spiritual insight, connection to the earth, to nature, to the eternal. A clay tablet from Greece containing the design of a Labyrinth is 3,200 years old; anthropologists found a pattern on a figurine in the Ukraine that dates from 18,000-15,000 B.C.E.; **Christians** began using them during the Middle Ages as an alternative to making a pilgrimage to Jerusalem, which was expensive and dangerous. The seed pattern we have used was discovered off the coast of Sweden and is at least 6,000 years old.



**Volunteering as a Deacon or an Usher.
Your service to MCC is appreciated!**

Jessica (203)414-6874 jspfalzgraf@gmail.com



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. You can sign-up in Wilton Hall or online! 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

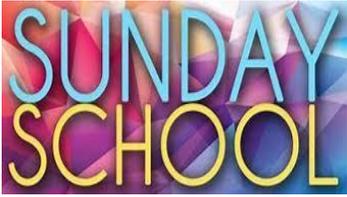
9:45am, before worship. Thank you!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C48ADAC2CA5FEC61-flowers> or [MCC-UCC.org](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C48ADAC2CA5FEC61-MCC-UCC.org)

Faith Formation



Welcome the Children: The presence of children is a gift to the church, they give us a future filled with hope, and a present filled with joy. We have some Worship Tool Bags filled with art items and quiet toys to help them find worship more engaging and meaningful. Please see an usher or Greeter to obtain one.



Our **Sunday School** is available today for pre-school through junior high age children! Simply follow the group that departs after the children's message. If this is your first time visiting with children, you may want to accompany them and get them settled in with the teachers and other students. Welcome!

JR PF Schedule Our junior-high youth group (grades 6-8) meets every Sunday from 5-6:30 in classroom 5, join us!



If you are interested in making soup to share, would like to donate but won't be there in person that day, or have questions of any kind, please contact Jeanette Cardentey.

Senior



Sr PF Schedule: Our high school youth group meets most Sundays from 5-7:30 in Dineson Parlor, join us!

Sr PF Chili Cookoff!

Saturday, February 25

5:30-7:30 pm

The Monroe Congregational Church

Rexford House

34 Church St, Monroe CT

- 12 Contestants
- Raffle Baskets
- Bake Sale
- The PF Band



**Admission
\$6/person
Kids under 5
free!**

It's spicy

All proceeds benefit our 2023 youth mission trip!

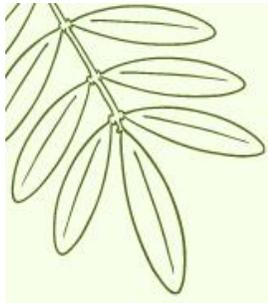
?s - mccuccseniorpf@gmail.com



Weekly Bible Study Thursday 9:30-11am

We cordially invite you to join us each week in in Dineson Parlor. This winter into the spring we will be reading together the Gospel of Matthew

Fellowship

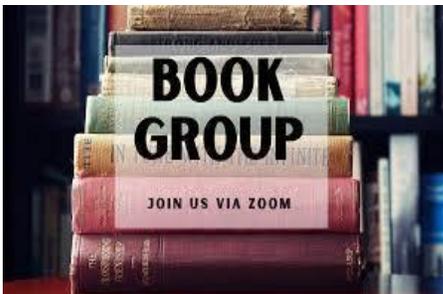


Ash Wednesday

AGAPE SOUP SUPPER



Wednesday, February 22nd at 6:30 PM
Join the Deacons for a light meal of soup and conversation in Wilton Hall



MCC Book Club is open to all church members. We will continue to meet via zoom on the **3rd Wednesday of each month at 7 pm.**

For more information, please call Paula Haggstrom 203-452-0850 email: pjsh55@gmail.com

February 15th
March 15th

West with Giraffes by Lynda Rutledge
The Lincoln Highway by Amor Towles

Host: Julie McClenathan
Host: TBD

Young At Heart will meet **February 23th** at noon
Details to be announced



Morning Circle will not meet in January or February. Our first meeting in 2023 will be on Wednesday, March 8 at 11AM in Dineson Parlor. We will be putting together birthday bags for the children visiting the Food Pantry with their parents. Included in these bags is a package of birthday napkins, candles, cake mix and frosting. **Donations are most welcome** and can be left in the Morning Circle bin across from the men's room. Please contact Jackie Bleakney with any questions at 203-268-5275.

Mark your calendars for the following meetings:
Wednesday, April 12 at 11AM in Dineson Parlor - CWS

hygiene kits
Wednesday, May 10 at 11AM in Dineson Parlor - Women's products for Food Pantry
Wednesday, June 14 at 11AM - Annual June Picnic - location TBD

The graphic is a vertical rectangle with a yellow background. It is divided into four quadrants. The top-left quadrant contains a white circle with the text 'Women's RETREAT at Silver Lake'. The top-right quadrant shows a photograph of three people sitting around a table, focused on a board game. The bottom-left quadrant shows a photograph of four women standing at a bar or counter in a social setting. The bottom-right quadrant contains a white circle with the text 'Friday, April 14 - Sunday April 16' and 'Save the Date!'.

Women's
RETREAT
at Silver Lake



Friday, April 14 -
Sunday April 16
Save the Date!

We celebrated Monroe Congregational Church's 175th Anniversary on Dec 18th.

We enjoyed this beautiful cake during Coffee Hour thanks to our Fellowship Board!





Heritage Sunday January 22, 2023

Today we honor and celebrate the ways in which these long term members have engaged in the mission and ministry of the Monroe Congregational Church. Through their contributions of time, talent and treasure, they have helped the Monroe Congregational Church thrive as a vibrant faith home. They have nurtured children and youth. They have offered gentle hands and hearts in times of need. They have stood on the side of love and justice in our community. We are grateful for their presence and for all the ways they have participated in this congregation. Thank you for your example and for staying, serving, and growing with us. Our church is a better place because you have been here.

	Joined in...
June Winger	1947 (76 Years)
Franklin Renz	1954 (69 Years)
Jackie Bleakney	1958 (65 Years)
June Wilkes	1959 (64 Years)
Myron Winger	1960 (63 Years)
Lorrie Sippin	1964 (59 Years)
Joyce Rousseau	1965 (58 Years)
George & Mary Massar, Gay Muizulis, Gary & Gail Thompson, Don Whiteley, Ann Zeiner, Vaughan Askue	1969 (54 Years)
Tom Kelly	1972 (51 Years)
Betty Heiney	1973 (50 Years)
Carol Kelly	1974 (49 Years)
Gail Olson	1975 (48 Years)
Tony Prall	1976 (47 Years)
Donna Jones Parratt	1977 (46 Years)
Lorraine Zeiner, Ron & Peggy Villani	1978 (45 Years)
Andrea Crosnier, Bob & Janice Martin	1980 (43 Years)
Marge Fox, Julie & Rob McClenathan, David & Lois Spence, Hubert Muizulis, Mary Renz	1982 (41 Years)
George & Priscilla Cunningham, Gayle & Robert Hammond	1983 (40 Years)
Gerrie Esposito	1987 (36 Years)
Linda Fracassini	1988 (35 Years)
Jane Allen, Ginger Bartlett, Paula Haggstrom, Barbara & Richard Ruot	1994 (29 years)
David Walker, Diane Prall	1995 (28 years)
Paul & Suzanne Adams, Julie Heussner, John & Kathy Maiolo, Lauren Provost, David & Linda Rooney	1996 (27 years)
Joe & Betsy Gilberti, Osiris & Julia Gutierrez, Jim & Jennifer Halloran, John & Barbara Yeager	1997 (26 years)
Nick & Linda Caballero, Ken & Pam Kelly, Roy & Jenn Nealon, Laurel & Ken Post, Scott & Katie Young	1998 (25 years)
John & Leslie Sekelsky, Jim Vance, Sue Waters	1999 (24 years)
Mark & Stacy Andrejczyk, Rich & Michelle Correll, Josh & Carrie Friend, John & Cindy O'Rourke, Marian Schmitz	2000 (23 years)
Eve Balestiere, Andrew & Kristina Logan, Kristen Provost-Switzer	2001 (22 years)
Lynda & Richard Bauer, Cliff & Susie Cuseo, Joanne Malia, Warren Stamp, Sheila Torres, Mary Unger, Trees Whitbeck	2002 (21 years)
Susan Granello, Mark Malia, Linda Resnik, Bonnie & Chuck Schneider, Christine & Frank Wittenauer	2003 (20 years)

Prayer LIST

As the new year begins, we hope that our friends and loved ones listed on our weekly prayer list have found healing of both body and soul. If you or your loved one finds you are no longer in need of our weekly prayer, please let Diane know so we may rejoice in the good news and remove the name making room for those who may need to be added. secretary@mcc-ucc.org or call the office 203-268-9327

Michael Barresi (Maria's Son); **Jennifer Bittar** (Lorraine Zeiner's friend); **Jackie Bleakney**; **Byron Brown & Bruce Bryant** (friends of Will Duchon); **Cheryl Ciambriello** (Wendy Colegrove's friend); **Lori Cimeno** (Peggy & Ron Villani's Daughter); **Cliff Cuseo**; **Donna** (Wendy Colegrove's aunt); **Dot Dralus**; **Matt Duchon**; **Judy Elmendorf**; **Bruno Forte** (friend of Nancy Hedine); **David Fischman** (Sue Granello's Friend); **Dave Fuller** (Gail Olson's brother); **Karen Guinness** (Jennifer Nivison's friend); **Gina & Liz** (Wendy Colegrove's friends); **Sophina Gingras**; **The Haggstrom family**; **The Granello/Hedine family**; **Mary & Rachel Heerema** (Julia Gutierrez's mom & sister); **Bob Heffernan** (Ann Zeiner's son-in-law); **Sage Hohlfeld** (Gary Thompson's grandniece); **Brian Hopkins** (Donna Konkol's cousin); **Vera James** (Jenn Wissink's mother); **Shawn Kadric** (Diane Prall's brother-in-law); **Kelti** (friend of Liska Gutierrez); **Walter Lane** (Marge Fox's brother-in-law); **Danny Larkin** (Donna Konkol's relative); **Mary-Margaret Logan** (Andrew's mother); **Monica Lynch** (Bethany Dupuis' friend); **Jacquie MacLean** (Jennifer Nivison's friend); **Nicole Malia**; **Mike** (Janie Allen's son); **Mike** (Dot's friend); **Jean Moffat**; **Olivia Morrison** (Donna Nickdow's niece); **Joe Mumper** (Julie McClenathan's friend); **Kathy Nivison** (Andy's mother); **Pat Nugent**; **Ocampo family** (friends of Liska Gutierrez); **Jennifer Olson** (Gail Olson's daughter-in-law); **Missy Olson**; **Osborne** (Colegrove's Family friend); **Dean Perosino** (Gayle Hammond's brother); **Geno Piacentini** (Karen MacDonald's husband); **P.T. Philip** (Liz Sampson's father); **Norman & Jan Ricker** (Linda & Jack Fracassini's friend); **Kim Riffard**; **Regina Roberts** (Kathy Maiolo's niece); **Alfredo Rodriguez** (Osirus Gutierrez's cousin); **Noah Santiago** (Shari Carrano's great-grandson); **Connor Scalia** (Jen Nivison's friend); **Carlos Serrano** (Kathy Maiolo's cousin); **Yessika Siccardi** (Sampson family friend); **Bernie Sippin**; **Peggy Sippin** (Lori Sippin's daughter-in-law); **John Skarupa** (Barb Pellegrino's brother); **Sheldon Smith**; **Christine Stadler**; **Christian & Dain Steiner** (Julie McClenathan's nephews); **Claire Stenzel** (June & Myron Winger's granddaughter); **Olga Terwilliger** (Nancy Hedine's sister-in-law); **Gail Thompson's family**; **Ian Thompson** (Gary's cousin); **Richard Turco** (Jack Fracassini's cousin); **Charles L. Wynn, Sr.**, (and his mother) **Alleane** (friends of Will Duchon); **Allen Zeiner** (Ann Zeiner's son); **Ann Zeiner**

The concerns of our world: The people of **Ukraine**; **LGBTQ+ children and their families** facing discrimination; those who serve or live in **war** or **conflict zones** around the world; **first responders** and those who serve in **law enforcement**; those who suffer **discrimination**; those who struggle with **mental illness, addiction, divorce** or **separation**; **Caregivers**; the **homeless, homebound** and **refugees**; Our friends living on the **Cheyenne River Sioux Reservation** and in **Oaxaca, Mexico**

Those serving in the military, veterans & their families: Germany: **Rachel Hoffman** (Vaughan Askue's daughter), Virginia: **Chris Meneses** (Lorraine Zeiner's friend), Georgia: **Zachary Peters** (Jacob Parker-Burgard's cousin), Kuwait: **Jon Sanchez** (Don Whiteley's grandson-in-law) Stateside: **Joel Smith** (250th Engineering Company)

Don't like writing checks? Want to save time and money on checks, envelopes and stamps? It's EASY! Here's how to update or start an electronic payment from our MCC website.

Log on to www.mcc-ucc.org/donate and click **Donate**



Welcome to the Monroe Congregational Church's home page!

Worship with us in person (please see our *Our Pandemic Commandments* below) or on our church's You Tube Channel under CCLI Streaming License #2169137 on: <https://www.youtube.com/monroecongregationalchurchucc>, as well as on our Facebook page "Monroe Congregational Church, UCC".

Please join us for a time of fellowship following the service via a virtual zoom coffee hour at 11:30: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81347810863?pwd=SERMb1ILNUZLdHVNc3VMcm5wcEhUT09>

January 29, 2021

WORSHIP TIMES

Sundays 10:00am

SUNDAY SCHOOL

temporarily suspended

OFFICE CLOSED

MCC staff is working from home.

Next:



How to Support MCC's Mission & Ministries

The mission of our church to incarnate God's love and work for a more compassionate, just and peaceful world is as important now as ever. During this time of disruption, it is important to maintain our giving so the church can continue its mission. For now, the church office is closed and staff are working mostly remotely. Now is the time for all of us to do our best to continue our regular donations so that we ensure the smooth and continued operation of our church's ministries. Thank you!

To Donate through VANCO, Click Here

January 29, 2021

WORSHIP TIMES

Sundays 10:00am

SUNDAY SCHOOL

temporarily suspended

OFFICE CLOSED

Then **Login**, or if you are new to electronic payment, **Create a Profile!**

Monroe Congregational Church

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Tel: (203) 268-9327; Fax: (203) 268-3153
e-mail: mccsecretary@mcc-ucc.org



**UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**



Online Donation

[Return to our Home Page](#)

Donations

If you've already created a profile, please "Log In" on the right, otherwise continue.

General Operating:	<input type="text" value="0.00"/>
Capital Projects:	<input type="text" value="0.00"/>
Pledge:	<input type="text" value="0.00"/>
Outreach:	<input type="text" value="0.00"/>
MusicFest:	<input type="text" value="0.00"/>
Flowers:	<input type="text" value="0.00"/>
St. George's Supper:	<input type="text" value="0.00"/>
Covenant to Care:	<input type="text" value="0.00"/>
Offering:	<input type="text" value="0.00"/>
Neighbors in Need:	<input type="text" value="0.00"/>
One Great Hour of Sharing:	<input type="text" value="0.00"/>
Other:	<input type="text" value="0.00"/> = <input type="text"/>
Total:	\$0.00

Log In help

Email Address:

Password:

[Forgot your Email Address or Password?](#)



Create Your Online Profile

Finally select where you want your money to go! If you a **fulfilling a pledge** be sure to choose **Pledge** so your gift will be recorded properly on your Giving statement and in our records. Thank you!

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Total:	\$0.00

Log In help

Email Address:

Password:

[Forgot your Email Address or Password?](#)

Create Your Online Profile



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

Harrison	Gilberti	02/02	Julio	Morales	02/15
Elayna	Caballero	02/03	Jean	Moffat	02/19
Paul	Granello	02/04	Ashley	Malia	02/20
Roy	Nealon	02/04	Nancy	Smith	02/20
Daniel	Balestriere Sr.	02/06	Jacob	Parker-Burgard	02/22
Jay	O'Rourke	02/08	Emma	Campbell	02/23
Hannah	Andrejczyk	02/10	Barbara	Pellegrino	02/25
Christine	Hare	02/10	David	Allen	02/26
Scott	Provost-Switzer	02/10	Mark	Andrejczyk	02/26
Ken	Post	02/12	Vaughan	Askue	02/26
Josh	Friend	02/13	Gerrit	Wissink	02/26
Sheila	Torres	02/13			



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

Joseph & Donna Konkol ⁽⁰⁹⁾

Suzanne & Paul Adams ⁽¹²⁾

and Paul & Marc Cardentey ⁽²⁸⁾

February 2023
MCC Community Calendar

Wed. Feb 1st

7:00 pm Confirmation

Thurs. Feb 2nd

9:30 am Bible Study
5:45 pm Chime Choir
7:00 pm Chancel Choir

Week of Sun. Feb. 5th

Communion

10:00 am Worship
5:00 pm Junior & Senior PF

Mon. Feb 6th

7:00 pm Outreach (Zoom)

Tue. Feb 7th

1:00 pm Mustard Seed Sort and Tag

Wed. Feb 8th

7:00 pm Confirmation

Thurs. Feb 9th

9:30 am Bible Study
5:45 pm Chime Choir
7:00 pm Chancel Choir

Week of Sun. Feb. 12th

10:00 am Worship
11:00 am SOUPer Bowl with JrPF
11:30 am Trustees
5:00 pm Senior PF

Mon. Feb 13th

7:45 pm Deacons (Zoom)

Tue. Feb 14th

1:00 pm Mustard Seed Sort and Tag

Wed. Feb 15th

7:00 pm Confirmation
7:00 pm Book Club Zoom

Thurs. Feb 16th

9:30 am Bible Study
5:45 pm Chime Choir
7:00 pm Chancel Choir

Week of Sun. Feb. 19th

10:00 am Worship
5:00 pm Junior & Senior PF

Mon. Feb 20th

Presidents Day -office Closed
7:30 pm Council (Zoom)

Tue. Feb 21st

1:00 pm Mustard Seed Sort and Tag

Wed. Feb 22nd

Ash Wednesday
12-1 Ashes to Go
6:30 pm Agape Community Meal
7:30 pm Ash Wednesday Worship

Thurs. Feb 23rd

9:30 am Bible Study
12:00 pm Young at Heart
5:45 pm Chime Choir
7:00 pm Chancel Choir

Sat. Feb 25th

3:00 pm Sr PF Setup for Chili Cookoff
5:30 - 7:30 pm SR PF Chili Cook Off

Week of Sun. Feb. 26th

10:00 am Worship
11-12 Lenten Labrinth Walk (Wilton Hall)
5:00 pm Junior & Senior PF

Tue. Feb 28th

1:00 pm Mustard Seed Sort and Tag

Wed. Feb 29th

7:00 pm Confirmation

Thurs. Mar. 1st

9:30 am Bible Study
5:45 pm Chime Choir
7:00 pm Chancel Choir