



THE MONROE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

STEEPLE

34 Church Street
Monroe, CT 06468

Tel.: (203) 268-9327
Fax: (203) 268-3153

Sept

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

April 1, 2016

Senior Pastor: Rev. Jennifer Gingras
Associate Pastor of Faith Formation: Rev. Barb Frey
Music Director: Will Duchon
Secretary: Melissa Rosenberg
Church email: secretary@mcc-ucc.org



The Ministry of Lay Preachers

Of the 168 hours in a week, we set one aside precisely for worship. Worship is work that is not exactly work, an activity that isn't very active (neither is it passive) and that yields no product—except sometimes a kind of deepening... a shifting of perspective... which may lead to an interior transformation, a revelation or call us to live another way.

Sometimes, by luck or grace, we glimpse something invisible when we are together in worship: a sense of reassurance, acceptance, comfort, or peace—whether peace of mind or peacefulness of spirit—which gives us strength for the hours and days ahead. We may feel gratitude, forgiveness, praise or resolution. Or we may feel an unwelcome and uneasy challenge to our convictions or an unexpected stirring to act with more courage.

These feelings are immeasurable, intangible, and yet are not felt by everyone at once in the same way. That is because worship is communal and yet essentially private. Who knows how far any one of us may travel between the Gathering Music and Benediction?

At MCC, our worship is made up of many parts: Music, Prayer, Scripture, Sermon and sometimes Sacrament. In the congregational tradition, worship is considered the work of people. I'm consistently in awe of what the people of MCC bring with them as worship leaders each week. One of the less common areas that someone might participate in is writing and preaching a sermon.

With a restructured staff, the opportunity for more people to preach has opened up at MCC. If you feel that you may have a gift for preaching and leading worship and want to explore this further, let's talk. There are a few Sundays in the summer I am away and will need coverage. If you have ever been curious about writing and delivering sermons, I'd love to give you some training and prepare you to lead one of them in my absence.

As my preaching professor Dr. Benjamin Watts would often say "We've all got one sermon in us, one thing that God is trying to work out through our voice." Ever wonder what your one sermon might be?

In peace, Pastor Jenn

Outreach

Many thanks to everyone who made the 2016 Tag Sale a huge success! It was truly an inter-generational event with people of all ages contributing items, sorting, tagging, selling and loading the truck at the end of the sale. Together we raised \$3600.00 to help support such charities as Bridgeport Rescue Mission, Project Warmth, The Center for Women and Families, Habitat for Humanity and our own Senior PF for their mission trip. We also helped local families purchase many items at rock bottom prices. All unsold items were donated to Make a Home Foundation in Waterbury to benefit veterans and their families. Through your generosity, the MCC Tag Sale has become a highly anticipated event which touches the lives of many people. Julie McClenathan, Chair of The Board of Christian Outreach

The next St. George's Supper is April 18th

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 April 17th 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

CROP Walk: Spring is finally here. The weather may change but hunger stays with our



brothers and sisters locally and around the world. Each May your Board of Outreach sponsors the CROP walk in Bridgeport to raise funds to end

hunger. This year the event will be held on **May 1st from 1:30 to**

5pm. There is a short, 3.7k walk and a long, 8.0 k. This is how it works: If you want to walk, please take an envelope from Trees Whitbeck and start

collecting sponsors to pledge money to you. If you cannot walk but want to participate, please sponsor a walker. All contributions are tax deductible.

Strawberry Festival

IT'S TIME TO MAKE THE JAM!

It's time for weekend JAM-A-THONS! It's a huge task and I know with YOUR help we'll get it done. Look for the sign-up sheet in Wilton Hall and mark your calendars...

Saturday, April 16th : 8:00am-6:00pm

Saturday, April 9th : 8:00am-6:00pm

Saturday, April 23rd : 8:00am-6:00pm

Saturday, April 30th : 8:00am-6:00pm

Saturday, May 14th : 8:00am-6:00pm

Saturday, May 21st : 8:00am-6:00pm



Strawberry Festival



Strawberry Festival Mark your calendars for the 45th Annual Strawberry Festival June 18th and 19th! 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 - Strawberry Festival weekend is full of laughter, fun and fellowship

Deacons

Spring 2016 New Members Class: Sunday, April 24th



The desire to be a part of something larger than ourselves isn't an accident. We were created to need community, a place to belong.

The local church can not only meet that need, but it can also be a place to discover, develop and use our gifts. Our next New Members Orientation Class at the Monroe Congregational



USHERS & GREETERS

Church will take place on Sunday, April 24th at 11:15 in Dineson Parlor. New Members will join the church in worship on Sunday, May 8th. Please RSVP with Melissa in the church office (203) 268-9327.

We need ushers and greeters! Ushers and greeters welcome folks to each of the Sunday services and hand out bulletins. It's a great way to meet new friends or perhaps brighten someone's day. Please add your name to the sign-up sheet in Wilton Hall or contact Jessica Pfalzgraf jspfalzgraf@gmail.com. Your help will be very much appreciated.

Prayer Partners Unite for the "Big Reveal" - We will meet on Sunday, May 15th at 11:30AM in Wilton Hall for our "big reveal" luncheon. A signup sheet will be posted in Wilton Hall for those who can attend and for those who require childcare for 2 years and younger. Older children can dine with us. Thank you so much for keeping your partner in your thoughts and prayers. I look forward to seeing everyone for a delicious meal and sharing the names of who you've been praying for. Please contact Susie Cuseo at 03-268-0280 or at thecuseos@yahoo.com with any questions.



Fellowship

Please join us for the MCC Book Club!

April 27th - 7:30pm Host: Paula Haggstrom~ We are reading Fever by Mary Beth Keane

May 18th - 7:30pm Host: Gayle Hammond~ We are reading The Art Forger by Barbara Shapiro

June 8th - 7:30pm We are reading The Traitor's Wife: The Woman Behind Benedict Arnold and the Plan to Betray America by Allison Pataki



Morning Circle would like to invite the ladies of the congregation to their next meeting on Wednesday, April 13th at 11AM in Dineson Parlor. We will putting together for the last time the Church World Service Layette kits. Over the past 10 years we've made an average of 30 kits per year. They include gowns, onsies, cloth diapers, diaper pins, crocheted/knitted blankets, receiving blanket, baby washcloths and knitted/crocheted sweaters and jackets sized newborn to 9 months. We are looking for donations of sweaters and cloth diapers. Any donations can be left in the bin outside the church office. Another way to help us is to donate your monetary gift in order to purchase the diapers. Just write CWS kits on the item line and drop it off in the Morning Circle mail slot in the office. Your help goes a long way to support new moms locally and worldwide during crisis and disaster. Please contact Susie Cuseo at 203-268-0280 or thecuseos@yahoo.com with any questions or comments. Thank you so much for your help with this wonderful service project.

Trustees

Spring Workday Saturday, May 14th at 8:00 am - We have plenty of spring cleanup jobs to tackle so please come out and spend a few hours helping to spruce up our campus. We need volunteers to clean the inside of the meeting house. We are also in need of a pick-up. Breakfast will be provided. If you are able to assist, please sign up in Wilton Hall. Any questions, please email Dave Allen dallen9457@att.net



Community News

T'AI CHI AT MCC ON SUNDAYS AFTER EASTER

SUNDAY David Bailey, world renown T'ai Chi instructor (at least, that's what HE claims), will be teaching T'ai Chi at MCC for six successive Sundays, starting on April 3rd, and running through May 8th. Sessions will run after Worship Service, starting at around 11:30 and lasting for 45-60 mins. per session. They will be held outdoors, so weather will be a factor here.



If you're interested, please let David know, either via email: davidjbaileyinct@gmail.com, or via a Facebook message, or in person.

The Monroe Lions Club will be hosting a pancake breakfast from 8:30am – 11:00am on Saturday, April 16th in Wilton Hall.

The breakfast includes pancakes, sausage, and a choice of juice, coffee or tea. Tickets are sold at the door. \$10 per person. All proceeds support Monroe residents including the food pantry, Operation Warmth, Edith Wheeler Library, and other local projects. For more information contact Jessica Pfalzgraf at 203-414-6874 or www.monroelionsclub.com



MCC Community Calendar

Week of Apr. 3rd

Guest Preacher Doug Halley

10:00am Worship w/Communion

11:15am Jr. Choir

11:15am Guest Quentin Brantley from Crop Walk (Wilton Hall)

11:30am T'ai Chi (Side lawn)

6:00pm Adult, Junior and Senior PF

Tues. Apr. 5th

1:30pm Mustard Seed Sort & Tag

7:30pm Rachel's Well (Dineson)

Wed. Apr. 6th

6:30pm Confirmation Class

Thurs. Apr. 7th

9:30am Bible Study

6:30pm Bell Choir

7:30pm Adult Choir

Sat. Apr. 9th

8:00am Jam Making (Kitchen)

Week of Apr. 10th

Baptism of Lee Gawel

10:00am Worship

11:15am Junior Choir

11:30am T'ai Chi (Side lawn)

6:00pm Junior & Senior PF

Tues. Apr. 12th

1:30pm Mustard Seed Sort & Tag

Wed. Apr. 13th

9:00am Retired Men (Dineson)

11:00am Morning Circle (Dineson)

Thurs. Apr. 14th

9:30am Bible Study

6:30pm Bell Choir

7:30pm Adult Choir

Week of Apr. 17th

10:00am Worship

11:15am Junior Choir

11:15am Deacons (Dineson), Trustees (Class 4)
and Outreach (Kitchen) Meetings

11:30am T'ai Chi (Side lawn)

6:00pm Adult, Junior and Senior PF

Mon. Apr. 18th

3:45pm St. George's Supper

7:30pm Council (Dineson)

Tues. Apr. 19th

1:30pm Mustard Seed Sort & Tag

7:30pm Bereavement Group (Dineson)

Wed. Apr. 20th

6:30pm Confirmation Class

Thurs. Apr. 21st

9:30am Bible Study

6:30pm Bell Choir

7:30pm Adult Choir

Sat. Apr. 23rd

8:00am Jam Making

11:00am Youth Sunday Rehearsal

Week of Apr. 24^h

Youth Sunday

10:00am Worship

11:15am Junior Choir

11:15am New Member Meeting (Dineson)

11:30am T'ai Chi (Side lawn)

6:00pm Adult, Junior and Senior PF

Tues. Apr. 26th

1:30pm Mustard Seed Sort & Tag

7:30pm Divorce Support (Dineson)

Wed. Apr. 27th

6:30pm Confirmation Class

Thurs. Apr. 28th

9:30am Bible Study

12:00pm Young at Heart (Location TBD)

6:30pm Bell Choir

7:30pm Adult Choir

Sat. Apr. 30th

8:00am Jam Making

Week of May 1st

3rd Grade Communion

10:00am Worship

11:30am Preplanning Workshop w/Spadaccino
(Dineson)

11:30am T'ai Chi (Side lawn)

1:30pm Crop Walk (Bridgeport)

6:00pm Adult, Junior and Senior PF

Tues. May 3rd

1:30pm Mustard Seed Sort & Tag

7:30pm Rachel's Well (Dineson)

Wed. May 4th

6:30pm Confirmation Class

Thurs. May 5th

9:30am Bible Study

6:30pm Bell Choir

7:30pm Adult Choir

Sat. May 7th

9:00am Dress A Girl Charity Event (Wilton Hall)

DRESS A GIRL AROUND THE WORLD SEW-A-THON



*Imagine a World where every little girl
owned at least one dress!*

What if that dress was made you ?

When: May 7, 2016 10:30am-3:30pm

Contact Liz Skarzynski to register

203-257-7174 or Liz1202us@yahoo.com

**Congregational Church
34 Church Street
Monroe, CT 06468**



Hope 4 Women International
P.O. Box 8061
Tempe, AZ 85281

CALLING ALL CRAFTERS OR WANT-TO-BE CRAFTERS!

Materials List:

- Lightweight fabric, but not see-through, double wide bias tape, ½" elastic, and any decorative trim you have hanging around.

Extra Materials Needed:

- Sewing machines, irons, ironing boards & cutting boards.

Materials Provided:

- Patterns, Scissors, & Power Cords .
- All the support you need and some chow to keep us going.