



THE MONROE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

STEEPLE

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

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

April 15, 2017

Thank You!

Thank you for our shared ministry during these last three months. Last week we arrived in Jerusalem after much reflection. As we anticipate the days ahead we will remember having worshiped on Ash Wednesday at the beginning of the Lenten Season. Then after Palm Sunday we came prayerfully into Holy Week, which included our evocative and solemn Maundy Thursday worship. Two services on Easter Sunday enabled us to lift our hearts and minds to sing Alleluia! The coordinated effort of the Deacons under their new President, Jessica Pfalzgraf, made all these services possible.

Serving together with you has given me much gratitude for the thriving, energetic community that Pastor Jenn has nourished here. Her combination of pastoral leadership at this church and recent mission in the Holy Land has brought depth and vibrancy to Monroe Congregational Church. This worshiping community is one of welcome and inclusion. When I was greeted warmly by all of you in my first days, I felt right at home. I was especially happy to be able to continue serving a church since the church I had served for the last six years closed on Christmas Day, 2016.

I know now our ministry together has been very healing for me personally. There have moments in worship when Will Duchon's and Karen Manuzzi's leadership of the adult and Junior choirs respectively, have lifted my spirits so that I was tempted to forget I had to lead

worship afterwards! I wanted to linger longer in the memories of music and lyrics. It was also wonderful to hear children's sermons from Debi, and be reminded how the vitality of work with youth stimulates the whole congregation. The weekly collaboration from our lay leaders has added richness to our Sunday services. And I have been especially grateful for the opportunity to meet and greet many of you during coffee hour after worship, coordinated by Anne Zeiner.

When I complete my work here at the end of April, I will take memories of our Thursday morning Bible Study with me. I want to thank this special group for spirited participation in each of our classes. Their caring and compassion for one another stimulated my pastoral care ministry. This group has deeply committed prayer commitments for one another and others. Related to pastoral care ministry, I was welcomed into homes, hospital rooms, and care centers when I visited our care receivers.

Melissa Rosenberg and I worked many hours together in the office and I have so greatly appreciated her thoughtful, flexible, and gentle collaboration.

So, thank you to everyone for sharing ministry during our time together. My prayers are with you in the weeks to come. May you be like the trees of *Psalms 1*.

They are like trees

planted by streams of water,

which yield their fruit in its

season,

and their leaves do not wither.

In all that they do, they prosper. (*Psalms 1:3 NRSV*)

Blessings, Rev. Susan

Trustees



Spring Workday Saturday, May 6th 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. 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

Deacons

Pastor Jenn will be returning home soon and will lead worship again on Sunday, May 7th. We will welcome her back with a cake and she will have an informal photo presentation in Wilton Hall after coffee hour May 7th with photos from her sabbatical. Pastor Jenn is looking forward to sharing about her experiences as an Ecumenical Accompanier during her time away and is happy to answer questions we would like to ask about her trip. Please submit any questions you would like to ask Pastor Jenn in advance to Melissa (mccsecretary123@sbcglobal.net). Or, you can write questions down and submit them at coffee hour. All are welcome

Save the Date! Vacation Bible School ~July 31st- August 4th



“Superheroes of the Bible”

Moses? Deborah? David? Jesus? Superheroes? Absolutely! All children age 5-6th grade are invited to Vacation Bible School at Monroe Congregational Church July 31st-August 4th to participate in Superheroes of the Bible – a sort of Justice League of our own.

Registration Forms will be available soon and if you have any question, please contact Debi Mastroni-Kenyon at debi@mcc-ucc.org.

Jr. Pilgrim Fellowship Calendar

April
23rd – Regular Gathering at 6:00 pm
30th – Regular Gathering at 6:00 pm

Sunday School Calendar

April
23rd – Regular Sunday School Classes
30th – NO Sunday school

Musicfest Committee

Save the date! The 3rd Annual Monroe MusicFest is in a new month at a new time on a new day. This year, MusicFest is on SUNDAY, September 24, 2017 from 1 to 7. As before, keep in touch through: <http://monroemusicfest.blogspot.com/> or <https://www.facebook.com/MonroeMusicFest/> . This year in addition to talented musicians, MusicFest will have local artists and artisans displaying and selling their art. Mark your calendars and come enjoy this fun event



Outreach

People Helping People Sunday



Greetings MCC! We'll be having another People Helping People Sunday on April 30th. On this Sunday we will have an abbreviated worship service and then engage in service projects after church. The service projects this time will be:

- Planting seedlings for the Giving Gardens (making the pot out of newspaper and planting seeds)
- Property clean up projects (raking and preparing the Giving Garden)
- Making activity bags for children in the hospital Emergency Room (melting and molding old crayons into new ones, writing jokes and riddles on craft sticks and index cards, and assembling the bags)

We are looking for donations of newspaper, small toys, old crayons, and old muffin tins that you don't want back.

Please give your donations to Debi and most importantly plan to join us in this great day!



One Great Hour of Sharing: Thanks to your generous donations, we have collected \$1290.00 for One Great Hour Sharing!

Fellowship

Young at Heart will be meeting on Thursday , April 27th for fellowship and fun. We will be meeting at noon at Longhorn Steakhouse, 838 Bridgeport Ave, Shelton. Please RSVP with either Bill or Ruth Wakeley by April 25th You can also call - [203 225-6166](tel:2032256166). We hope to see you there.



Please join us for the MCC Book Club!

- ✚ **May 15-7:30pm** The Valley of Amazement by Amy Tam. Host TBD
- ✚ **June 21-7:30pm** Dead Wake: The Last Crossing of the Lusitania by Erik Larson. Host TBD

If you would like to add or remove someone from the prayer list please contact Melissa at mccsecretary123@gmail.com or call the church office 268-9327

MCC Community Calendar

Week of Apr. 16th

Easter Sunday

6:30am Sunrise Service @ Great Hollow Lake

8:30am Easter Worship

9:30am Special Easter Coffee Hour

10:00am Easter Worship

Mon. Apr. 17th

3:45pm St. George's Supper

7:30pm Council Meeting (Dineson)

Tues. Apr. 18th

1:30pm Mustard Seed Sort & Tag

7:00pm Bereavement Group (Dineson)

Wed. Apr. 19th

6:30pm Adult Confirmation (Dineson)

Thurs. Apr. 20th

9:30am Bible Study (Dineson)

7:00pm Adult Choir

Week of Apr. 23rd

10:00am Worship

11:15am Junior Choir

6:00pm Junior & Senior PF

Tues. Apr. 25th

1:30pm Mustard Seed Sort & Tag

Wed. Apr. 26th

6:30pm Youth Confirmation (Dineson)

Thurs. Apr. 27th

9:30am Bible Study (Dineson)

12:00pm Young at Heart (Longhorn Steakhouse)

7:00pm Adult Choir

Sat. Apr. 29th

9:00am Jam Making in the Kitchen

Week of Apr. 30th

People Helping People Sunday

10:00am Worship

11:15am Junior Choir

6:00pm Junior & Senior PF

Mon. May 1st

7:30pm Rachel's Well (Dineson)

Tues. May 2nd

1:30pm Mustard Seed Sort & Tag

Wed. May 3rd

6:30pm Youth Confirmation (Dineson)

Thurs. May 4th

9:30am Bible Study (Dineson)

7:00pm Adult Choir

Sat. May 6th

8:00am Trustees Spring Clean Up

9:00am Jam Making in the Kitchen

Week of May 7th

Crop Walk

10:00am Worship

11:15am Junior Choir

6:00pm Adult, Junior & Senior PF

Tues. May 9th

1:30pm Mustard Seed Sort & Tag

Wed. May 10th

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

11:00am Morning Circle (Dineson)

6:30pm Youth Confirmation (Dineson)

Thurs. May 11th

9:30am Bible Study (Dineson)

7:00pm Adult Choir

7:30pm Parent's Support Group (Dineson)

Sat. May 13th

9:00am Jam Making in the Kitchen