



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

February 15, 2017

Transfiguration: Mountain High, Valley Call

Luke 9:28-36 (NRSV)



Transfiguration Sunday, February 26, is a turning point in the Liturgical Year. The Season of Lent is anticipated with a mystical event on a mountain. Jesus' encounter with God reminds us of Moses on Mount Sinai receiving the Commandments (*Exodus 19-24*). In *The Gospel According to Luke*, Jesus was in the area of Bethsaida, located on the north side of the Sea of Galilee when he fed the multitude with five loaves and two fish (*Luke 9:10-17*). Eight days after this feeding, according to the Gospel, and accompanied by Peter, John, and James, Jesus "went up on the mountain to pray" (*9:28 NRSV*). Judging from

a modern day picture of what is believed to be the ancient city of Bethsaida, there are mountains in the distance that surround the area.

I have tried to imagine what it must have been like for Peter, John and James, as they went with Jesus. The disciples witnessed Jesus as he prayed, and was 'transfigured.' "And while he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became dazzling white" (*9:29*). Not only was Jesus present, but Moses and Elijah were talking with him as well! The three disciples were exhausted, but they were awake enough to interpret the importance of this revelation before them?

In an effort to hold on to the mystery unfolding before them, Peter had a brilliant idea of constructing three dwellings so that the disciples could remain with Jesus, Moses, and Elijah. Peter and the disciples were tempted to remain on the mountain, and be distracted away from the valley call that awaited them below. The exhilarating aura of Jesus, Moses, and Elijah was intoxicating. Then, before Peter could realize what he had said, a voice surrounded them from a cloud, and they heard, "'This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!'" (*9:35*). The cloud suddenly vanished, and they were alone with Jesus. Jesus would have to bring the disciples quite literally, 'down to earth.' The mystery of God's Presence on the mountain was not mentioned when they

descended to the town below. But now, we know Jesus' face was turned toward Jerusalem. He embraced the ministry that lay before him.

After we have experienced that exhilarating encounter of the Holy, it is tempting to remain on the mountain. But it is that very encounter that has prepared us to return to the valley below! The Season of Lent reminds us to be faithful to serve God after the mountain high has passed. The valley call awaits us as we descend the mountain and continue to be faithful one-day-at-a-time.

Blessings, Rev. Susan

Living Stewardship

Living Stewardship is a faith practice that involves all that it means to live as faithful followers of Jesus Christ. It grows out of deep caring for and joy in who we are as God's created people and the world in which we live. Living stewardship is about how we live our lives and how our lives express our values. Living stewardship is shalom: living in harmony with others and the world. As faithful disciples, we are called to live as generous creatures created by a generous God who shares responsibility with us for all creation. Stewardship involves all people because all are connected in mutually covenanted stewardship within God's original intent for creation.

Each week in the Bulletin, the Stewardship Committee has been asking those folks who have not yet pledged to pledge just \$2.00 per day it could help bring us where we need to be. I would like to address the 95 of us who have already pledged. 95 of us have pledged to bring us to a total of \$190,074! Bravo – yay us!

Now let's imagine what more we can do! If we increased by \$105 per year, or just \$2.20 per week, that is \$10,000! If we increased by \$600 per year, or just \$11.54 per week, that is \$57,000! Imagine just \$11.54 per week can bring us where we need to be! I'm up for that challenge so I am increasing my pledge from \$176 per month to \$222 per month - won't you join me?

Let's imagine together!

Debi Mastroni-Kenyon
Director of Faith Formation

Call to Annual Congregational Meeting, Continued February 19, 2017

The members of Monroe Congregational Church are hereby called to attend the conclusion of the Annual Meeting of the Congregation to be held in the meeting house immediately following worship on Feb 19. The agenda will include a motion to amend our constitution and the election of an additional board member. See text of the amendment below:

Amendment I: Extending Term of Board and Committee Members by One Additional Year

In the event and upon specific occasion or circumstances it is deemed necessary for the good of the congregation and its work, the Church Council may take exception to the provision of Article X, Section 1, and extend the term of office of any Board or Committee member or members for an additional one time, one (1) year. Following an affirmative two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Council quorum, the Church Moderator shall instruct the nominating committee to include the affected board or committee member or members on the list of recommended candidates for election at the annual meeting, or subsequently scheduled special general meeting of the congregation. An affirmative two-thirds (2/3) vote by the quorum of the congregation at its annual meeting or special general meeting shall be required to elect the affected board or committee member or members. Such action shall not establish a precedent and shall be justified on its own individual merits.

A word of explanation:

Our Annual Congregational Meeting of January 29 ended in recess, rather than adjournment. We did that because we propose to re-elect Mark Barnhart to an additional term as Trustee, which he has graciously agreed to serve – but he has already reached the term limit for that office. To make an exception we need this amendment to our Constitution, and an amendment requires two weeks’ notice prior to the meeting. In order to provide the two weeks’ notice, we recessed our meeting to reconvene on February 19 immediately after worship. Since we already agreed to do this, it will only take a few minutes to reconvene, pass the amendment, and confirm Mark’s election. We thank you for your patience, understanding, and especially for your participation as we complete this work and adjourn our annual meeting.

- Dave Walker, Moderator

Deacons



March 1st Ash Wednesday Service 7:30pm : Join us in the meetinghouse for worship and the imposition of ashes as we begin our Lenten journey towards Holy Week.

Pastor Jenn’s Blog

If you would like to follow Pastor Jenn’s journey on her sabbatical her blog is

<http://loveshoutingstones.blogspot.com/>

Outreach



It's that time again...the next St. George's supper is February 20th. 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 February 19th 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**



Mission Trip Save the Date! - Debi Mastroni-Kenyon will be leading a service trip to the Cheyenne River Reservation in La Plant, South Dakota, from June 24-July 1. This trip is open to anyone over the age of 15. Stay tuned for more information and contact Debi if you are interested or would like more information.

The Annual MCC Tag Sale is coming! Please mark your calendars for March 11 from 9 am-1 pm (early birds at 8) in Wilton Hall. This is an enormous event, requiring many people to help with set up, sale and clean up. There are will be all sorts of shifts to suit all schedules, so please consider donating a few hours of your time that week. How you can help:



1--Donate your gently used items. Please do not donate anything broken or old TVs, computer monitors, large upholstered furniture or clothing. All other donations can be dropped off at the church starting after noon on Sunday 3/5 and continuing until Thursday 3/9. Drop off during the week is during office hours, and then on Thursday we will have extended drop off hours until 9 pm. Please do not drop off items on Friday.

2--PLEASE sign up to help. This is an enormous event, requiring many help with set up, sale and clean up. There are all sorts of shifts to suit all schedules, so please donate a few hours of your time that week. In addition to being a great help for us, it is a wonderful time for fellowship and fun with each other, so don't miss out. A sign up sheet will be posted in Wilton Hall.

3--Spread the word. There are always terrific bargains (and we mean BARGAINS) at this tag sale, so the more people that come, the more successful we will be. 100% of the money earned that day goes to support mission, so everyone benefits from this event.



Dress A Girl Around The World Sew-A-Thon Returns March 18 from 10:00am-3:30pm~ Join Liz Skarzyinski from Dress A Girl Around The World on March 18th in Wilton Hall to create dresses for little girls overseas. Thank you for your generous donations of fabric. If you would like to contribute we need small toys that can fit in a 2-3 inch square pocket. Dress A Girl is part of Hope for Women International a non-profit, nondenominational independent Christian organization. If you would like to help or join the team, please call Liz 203-257-7174 or email Liz1202us@yahoo.com.

Christian Education

Jr. Pilgrim Fellowship Calendar

February

19th – NO Jr. PF

26th – Regular Gathering at 6:00 pm



Sunday School Calendar

February

19th – Regular Sunday school Classes

26th – Regular Sunday school Classes



Save the Date: February 18th Senior PF Chili Cook-off Fundraiser 6pm-9pm!

Senior PF is preparing for our big mission trip to Chicago this July! We are excited and looking forward to new experiences, hard work, helping others and being in community with one another. Please join us for a chili cook off where we will have several contestants competing for the title of Chili Master! There will be music and raffles. We are also working on sharing several past mission trips so people can get a glimpse into our week and how important these trips are to our evolving spiritual growth and being of service to others. Please join us and see who should be crowned the Chili Master...



Please join The Rainbow Connection on Tuesday, March 7 at 7:30 PM in Dineson. We are an open forum support group for those under the LGBT umbrella, as well as for their families and friends. We welcome all beautiful people of the rainbow spectrum. For information, please email Lisa Burke at lisa.burke.love@gmail.com, or call her at 203-864-5919. See you soon!



young
at heart

Young at Heart will be meeting on Thursday, February 23rd for fellowship and fun. We will be meeting at noon at Jennie's Pizza in Monroe. Please RSVP to Marge Fox by February 21st to let her know if you will be able to join us. 203-706-2132 or mfox08@snet.net. Hope to see you there.

Sponsor a Month of Coffee Hours Would you like to help the people who come to worship get to know each other? What if we told you that sponsoring a month of coffee hours at the low, low price of \$40? Our coffee is fair trade certified through Equal Exchange. You will not only get that warm and fuzzy feeling of doing something generous, but you can use your sponsorship to honor loved ones – a dedication goes on a plaque and in the bulletin. Please make checks payable to MCC with "coffee sponsor" in the memo field. Thank you.

The deadline for updating addresses, phone numbers, email addresses is February 22 for the new MCC Picture Directory. Please send in any changes to secretary@mcc-ucc.org or call 203-268-9327

Please join us for the MCC Book Club!

✚ **March 15th-7:30pm** The Unseen World by Liz Moore Location TBD

MCC Community Calendar

Week of Feb. 19th

10:00am Worship
11:15am Annual Meeting Continuation
11:15am Trustees Meeting (Dineson)
6:00pm Adult, Junior & Senior PF

Mon. Feb. 20th

Office Closed in Observance of President's Day

3:45pm St. George's Supper

Tues. Feb. 21st

1:30pm Mustard Seed Sort & Tag
7:00pm Bereavement Group (Dineson)

Wed. Feb. 22nd

6:30pm Adult Confirmation (Dineson)

Thurs. Feb. 23rd

9:30am Bible Study (Dineson)
12:00pm Young at Heart location
(Jennie's Pizza in Monroe)
7:00pm Adult Choir

Week of Feb. 26th

10:00am Worship
11:15am Junior Choir
11:15am Outreach Meeting (Classroom 4)
11:15am Fellowship Meeting (Dineson)
6:00pm Junior & Senior PF

Tues. Feb. 28th

1:30pm Mustard Seed Sort & Tag

Wed. Mar. 1

Ash Wednesday
7:30pm Ash Wednesday Worship

Thurs. Mar. 2nd

9:30am Bible Study (Dineson)
7:00pm Adult Choir

Week of Mar. 5th

10:00am Worship w/communion
11:15am Junior Choir
6:00pm Adult, Junior & Senior PF

Mon. Mar. 6th

7:30pm Rachel's Well (Dineson)

Tues. Mar. 7th

1:30pm Mustard Seed Sort & Tag
7:30pm The Rainbow Connection
(Dineson)

Wed. Mar. 8th

9:30am Retired Men's Breakfast (Dineson)
11:00am Morning Circle (Dineson)
6:30pm Youth Confirmation Class (Dineson)

Thurs. Mar. 9th

9:30am Bible Study (Dineson)
7:00pm Adult Choir
7:30pm Parent's Support Group (Dineson)

Fri. Mar. 10th

Tag Sale Set Up

Sat. Mar. 11th

8:00am Tag Sale

Week of Mar. 12th

10:00am Worship
11:15am Junior Choir
6:00pm Junior & Senior PF

Tues. Mar. 14th

1:30pm Mustard Seed Sort & Tag

Wed. Mar. 15th

6:30pm Youth Confirmation Class (Dineson)
7:30pm MCC Book Club (Location TBD)

Thurs. Mar. 16th

9:30am Bible Study (Dineson)
6:30pm Christian Education Meeting (Dineson)
7:00pm Adult Choir

Sat. Mar. 18th

9:00am Dress A Girl Sewathon

Week of Mar. 19th

10:00am Worship
11:15am Junior Choir
11:15am Outreach(Dineson)
6:00pm Adult, Junior & Senior PF

Tues. Mar. 21st

1:30pm Mustard Seed Sort & Tag
7:00pm Bereavement Group (Dineson)

Wed. Mar. 22nd

6:30pm Adult Confirmation Class (Dineson)

Thurs. Mar. 23rd

9:30am Bible Study (Dineson)
7:00pm Adult Choir

Fri. Mar. 24-Sun. Mar. 26

Women's Retreat to Silver Lake

Sat. Mar. 25th

8:00am Jam Making (Kitchen)