



THE MONROE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

STEEPLE

34 Church Street
Monroe, CT 06468

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

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

July 1, 2016

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

Offering emotional support and spiritual care by helping people connect with their own inner and community resources.

Pastoral Care Team Update

Many of the members and friends of MCC serve each another in quiet yet important ways; providing meals if a loved one has been hospitalized, sending cards when someone is ill, or offering rides when asked. We are a caring community.

Pastoral care is the faithful ministry of a religious community to the needs of people in face-to-face relationships. A pastoral care giver builds an intentional, long-term relationship with someone who is ill or hospitalized, or who lives in a nursing home and can't get to worship or church activities. They listen and offer prayer and presence to a person or family going through a difficult time.

By vocation, training, and call, ordained clergy are often a church's main resource for pastoral caregiving. In many congregations, trained lay people become vital partners who extend the reach of that care within a church body. A Pastoral Care Team works with the clergy to assure that spiritual needs are met for those enduring long-term periods of illness.

To be an effective pastoral care giver one must learn some sensitive topics, including but not limited to: deep listening, confidentiality, identifying emergency situations, skill-building, life cycles, bereavement / grief / death and dying, hospital and nursing home visits, when to make referrals to clergy, record keeping, maintaining healthy boundaries and limit-setting.

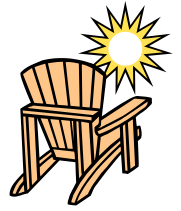
The model we will follow is a team approach, like Stephens Ministries. Each Pastoral Care Giver will be trained and given one person or family to serve at a time. They will commit to visiting once a month with their person or family. In addition, they gather with other members of the pastoral care team for continuing education and regular check-in's. For the Pastoral Care Giver, learning more can be a time of enrichment and spiritual deepening.

I put out an invitation to our members and friends to join a newly-forming Pastoral Care team a few Steeples back, and some of you have expressed an interest. This September we will meet and begin training. It's not too late to join us, so please do speak with me this summer if you are interested. *In peace, Pastor Jenn*

Deacons

Summer Worship with St. Peter's Episcopal Church!

One of the highlights of every summer is joining in worship with our friends from St. Peter's in an outdoor setting. Please bring a lawn chair



- On **July 24th at 10AM** We will host St. Peter's on our side of the green
- On **August 21st at 9AM**. St. Peter's will host us on their side of the green



Katrina Manzi, Ministry Intern, Returns for Summer Worship! This summer we will welcome Katrina Manzi, a student from Yale Divinity School to MCC. Katrina will be preaching on Sunday July 10, July 17, and August 28th while Pastor Jenn is away. Her time with us will be short, but we hope that you'll give her a warm welcome while she's here!



Share Your Good News Do you have something to celebrate like a new job, grandchild, wedding or other piece of good news? Do you want to share it with the community but are not sure quite how? Let Melissa know at secretary@mcc-ucc.org, with as much or as little detail as you'd like, so she can include your good news in an upcoming bulletin and steeple.

Trustees



It's summertime, and while many of you will be enjoying summer vacations the work of MCC continues. Please do what you can to stay current on your pledge payments over the summer months, even though you might not be able to attend Sunday services. You can arrange for electronic payment from your bank, or via the "Donate" page on our web site: <http://www.mcc-ucc.org/donate.html>

Thanks for your support of MCC and have a great Summer!

Sincerely – John O'Rourke, Receiver

2015 Audited Financial Statements: At the Annual Meeting, the Finance Committee presented un-audited numbers to the members, as an audit was in the process of being performed. Below is a brief highlight of the audited financial statements, now that the audit has been completed. If anyone would like more detail on any aspect of the 2015 financial statement, please forward your queries to the MCC secretary.

Gross Income \$407,743
Gross Expenditures \$400,524

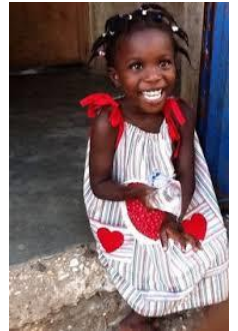
Gross Assets \$707,781
Cash \$9,203
Investments \$698,578

Outreach



CROP Hunger Walk: Thank you to everyone who donated and participated in the 2016 CROP Hunger Walk. We raised \$1,952.00 to support the overall ministry of Church World Service, especially grassroots, hunger-fighting development efforts around the world.

Dress A Girl Around The World Sew-A-Thon Returns July 16th from 10am-3pm~ Join Liz Skarzyinski from Dress A Girl Around The World on July 16th in Wilton Hall to create dresses for little girls overseas. There has been a request from India for dresses for girls there. Our goal will be to make 50 T-shirt dresses, a different style than the sun-dresses but in some ways is a little easier to make. 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.



Fellowship

Please join us for the MCC Book Club!

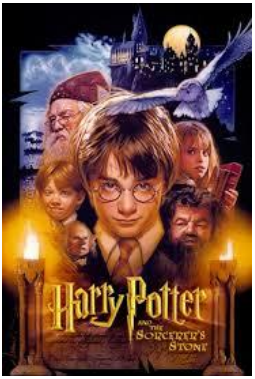
- ✚ **July 13th – 7:30pm** The Summer Before the War by Helen Simonson. Sue Smelzer is hosting
- ✚ **August 17th – 7:30pm** Where'd You Go, Bernadette by Maria Semple. Sue Smelzer is hosting
- ✚ **September 21st – 7:30pm** The Girl Who Wrote in Silk. Location TBD

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 could feed four children for 3 weeks? 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



young at heart **It is time for Young at Heart** to gather together again for food, fellowship, fun, and a little laughter (or at least some chuckles). **We will be meeting Outback Steakhouse, 638 Bridgeport Ave, Shelton on July 28th.** Please call (sorry no emails) Shari Carrano 203-261-7718 by July 28th so we know how many will be joining us. If you have never attended before, please come so you can be part of this group. See you there!

Christian Education



All Church Movie Night: Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone - 7pm, July 20th on the Parsonage Side Lawn Join us on Wednesday, July 20th at 7pm on the Parsonage side lawn for an all-church family viewing of the first installment in the Harry Potter Movies series! We believe that the entire Harry Potter series exemplifies important topics, including the power of self-sacrifice, the triumph of good over evil, and the ways in which people's decisions shape our personalities. This event is to celebrate and get excited for MCC's Vacation Bible School: Summer Camp at Hogwarts, which runs August 1-5, but you don't have to be a kid or have a kid to attend! Everyone is welcome to this free event – bring friends! Costumes are optional. Please bring a lawn chair or blanket and picnic snacks and beverages for you and yours. Please see Pastor Jenn if you have any questions.

Summer Camp at Hogwarts: Vacation Bible School, Aug 1- 5, 2016



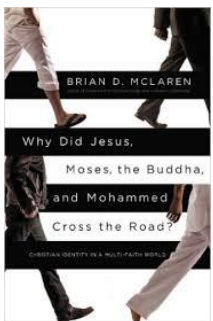
Have you ever wanted to experience the wonder of Hogwarts, the deliciousness of Butterbeer, the excitement of magic classes? Our week in the wizarding world will provide all that with other fun activities like House Sorting, Quidditch, Potions Class, and more. If your child is a Harry Potter fan, our VBS will be an incredible chance to indulge his/her love for one of the most iconic series of this generation (and learn a bit more about our faith as we do!) Registration forms are online at mcc-ucc.org/ministries/vacation-bible-school.html and in the church office. Volunteers also needed, please contact VBS co-chairs Lani Siciliano lanimsis@yahoo.com or Liska Gutierrez at liskag7@gmail.com for more information.

May We Borrow?

The parents, professors and administrators at Hogwarts are in need of some supplies. If we can use or borrow anything on this list, we would be ever so grateful. If you would like an item we borrow to be returned, please mark it with your name before turning it into the office:

- Black graduation gowns
- Brooms and tiki lamps (without lamp part) for Quidditch
- Any general Harry Potter decorations

Gratefully, *Prof. Minerva McGonagall*



All Church-Read Discussion: Why Did Jesus, Moses, the Buddha, and Mohammed Cross the Road? Christian Identity in a Multi-Faith World - 11:30 July 24 in Dineson Parlor When four religious leaders walk across the road, it's not the beginning of a joke. It's the start of one of the most important conversations in today's world. Can you be a committed Christian without having to condemn or convert people of other faiths? Is it possible to affirm other religious traditions without watering down your own? Blending history, narrative, and brilliant insight, McLaren shows readers step-by-step how to reclaim a strong-benevolent faith, challenging us

to stop creating barriers in the name of God and learn how affirming other religions can strengthen our commitment to our own. And in doing so, he invites Christians to become more Christ-like than ever before. Join us in Dineson Parlor for more conversation on this important interfaith read on Sunday, July 24th at 11:30am. Please see Pastor Jenn if you have any questions.

Hi, I'm Debi Mastroni-Kenyon



And I am the Monroe Congregational Church's newly hired Director of Faith Formation and I will be joining you on July 5th! The first thing people usually want to know about a new staff member is their background and experience. I have a Bachelor of Arts in Religious Education at Defiance College in Defiance, Ohio. I earned an Associate of Science in Psychology at Gateway Community College in 2006. I also have 23 years of experience in Youth Ministry and 9 years of experience in Faith Formation for all ages.

Currently I am wrapping up the program year with the North Haven Congregational Church. Before that, I served the Woodmont United Church of Christ in Milford, alongside your friend Rev. Cynthia Robinson.

I have a true passion and love for Faith Formation and service which reaches across the generations. One of my colleagues likes to say that I have Faith Formation in my DNA. I also have a strong connection to my friends on the Cheyenne River Reservation, where I have volunteered with Simply Smiles over 5 work trips. I have also served the CT Conference UCC in a variety of settings.

My home is in Milford with my husband Wayne, and we have one adult daughter. In my spare time I like to cook, garden, spoil my cat (Holly), volunteer at the Simply Smiles office and sing with the New Haven Chorale.

Community News

Bible Reading Marathon: The Monroe Clergy Association is coming together for a Bible Reading Marathon this August at the town gazebo. Pastor Jenn invites everyone (of any age) to join the MCC team during our assigned spots: Thursday, August 18th from 10am to noon and Saturday, August 20th from noon until 2pm. As is our congregational tradition, the team will discuss what we've read following the group read. Sign-up in Wilton Hall, and bring your Bible on the day of the event. Let Pastor Jenn know if you have any questions, jenn@mcc-ucc.org.

MCC Community Calendar

Week of July 3rd

10:00am Worship w/Communion
6:00pm Senior PF, New Leaders Lead

Mon. July 4th

Office closed for Independence Day

Tues. July 5th

Debi Mastroni-Kenyon's first day in the office

Sat. July 9th – Sun. July 17th

Senior Pilgrim Fellowship Mission Trip to Henderson Settlements, Kentucky

Week of July 10th

Guest Preacher Katrina Manzi
10:00am Worship

Wed. July 13th

7:30pm MCC Book Club (Sue Smelzer's)

Sat. July 16th

10:00am Dress A Girl (Wilton Hall)

Week of July 17th

Guest Preacher Katrina Manzi
10:00am Worship

Wed. July 20th

7:00pm Harry Potter Family Movie Night
(Side lawn)

Sat. July 23rd – July 31st

Adult Mission Trip to Cheyenne River Sioux Reservation with Simply Smiles

Week of July 24th

10:00am Summer Worship, MCC hosts, Pastor Jenn will preach and lead worship, ice cream social to follow
11:30am All-Church Read Conversation (Dineson)

Wed. July 27th

6:30pm Council planning meeting (Parker-Burgard's)

Week of July 31st

10:00am Worship

Mon. Aug. 1st -Fri. Aug. 5th

Summer at Hogwarts Vacation Bible School

Week of Aug. 7th

Guest Preacher Doug Halley
10:00am Worship

Week of Aug. 14th

10:00am Worship

Wed. Aug. 17th

7:30pm MCC Book Club (Sue Smelzer's)

Thurs. Aug. 18th

10:00am Bible Reading Marathon
6:30pm Deacons Planning Meeting (Sampson's)

Sat. Aug. 20th

12:00pm Bible Reading Marathon

Week of Aug. 21st

9:00am Summer Worship, St. Peter's hosts, Rev. Kurt Huber will preach and lead worship

Week of Aug. 28th

Guest Preacher Katrina Manzi
10:00am Worship

Week of Sept. 4th

10:00am Worship

Mon. Sept. 5th

Office Closed in Observance of Labor Day

Summer Camp at Hogwart's
August 1st to August 5th, 9 AM to Noon
2016 Vacation Bible School Registration



Ready to head to Hogwarts? Platform 9 and 3/4 has just opened. Register now for this can't-miss-it experience. Ages 4 through entering 5th grade welcome. \$10 per child to cover supplies. Now accepting counselors in training in 6th & 7th grade. CIT's will work with staff but also be able to participate for crafts and snack. Cost is \$5 each CIT.

Attach a check payable to Monroe Congregational Church with "VBS 2016" in memo line and return to the church office with this form. Please also complete The Hogwarts Sorting Hat Questionnaire on the back of this form. We do not wish to exclude any interested child(ren) due to financial considerations. Please contact Rev. Jennifer Gingras regarding scholarship assistance at (203) 268-9327.

Parent/ Guardian: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Emergency Contact: _____ Phone: _____

I give my child(ren) permission to participate in the MCC 2016 VBS _____

Name of child	Age	Grade in fall	Allergies, other?

I will be willing to help before VBS with preparations: ___Y ___N

I will be willing to help during VBS ___Y ___N (circle days) M T W Th F All

In order to volunteer, I will need childcare for my child age 3 or under ___Y ___N

Name and age of child(ren) _____

Please let us know about any health concerns or physical limitations we need to be aware of.

My child will bring an epi pen to VBS. ___Yes ___ No

Our Sustenance Director will contact parents of those with food allergies regarding the snacks provided prior to the event. Please let us know a direct number to reach you: _____

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

The Hogwarts Sorting Hat Questionnaire The Sorting Hat, bless its frayed brim, is taking a quick rest. So in the interim, we think a placeholder is best. New Hogwarts students, worry not! We'll find a home for you. But instead of that charmed chapeau, this quiz will have to do.

1.) You are given a test at school that has questions that teacher hasn't covered yet. In the middle of the test you notice that your friend next to you has a cheat-sheet. The teacher doesn't notice.

- Ask to share the cheat-sheet. This test isn't fair, so why should you be?
- Good for them, they beat the system.
- Confront them after the test and try to convince them not to cheat anymore. You don't want them to get in trouble.
- Confront them after the test and force them to tell the teacher they cheated, or you will tell on them. They must pay for their misdeeds.
- Inform the teacher right in the middle of class that they are cheating. Cheaters never prosper!

2.) While walking down the street you see a wallet on the side of the road. It has a small amount of money in it, but no identification of any kind. There is nobody in sight.

- Leave it there. Someone is probably looking for it.
- Pocket the money. You don't know who it belongs to, so finder's keepers.
- Take it to the police in case anyone ever reports it.
- Take the wallet, and go around the area asking anyone if they have lost a wallet recently.

3.) Someone has played a prank on you which involves your public embarrassment and everyone begins laughing at you. However, you doubt they meant any harm by it.

- Laugh along with the crowd. You love a good joke even if it's at your expense.
- On the outside you'll laugh because you don't want anyone to know that they really hurt your feelings by making you look stupid in front of everybody.
- You get upset and run away from the crowd. How could they be so mean?
- Pretend that all is well, but you won't forget this. They're going to pay for what they did! How dare they publicly humiliate you.

6.) A kid accuses you, in front of a whole crowd people, of stealing his toy which you did not do. You are twice his size, but he won't back off.

- How dare he insult me in front of all these people? I'll show him how things work in the real world!
- Explain to him that I didn't take his toy and give him fair warning that he'll have a black eye if he doesn't drop it.
- Try to rationalize with the kid. Tell him you didn't take the toy and refuse to fight him even if he takes a few swings at you.
- Tell him you didn't take the toy and direct him to someone who can help him find it.
- Explain to him you didn't take the toy and offer to personally help find the person who did.