



# THE MONROE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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# STEEPLE

34 Church Street  
Monroe, CT 06468

Tel.: (203) 268-9327  
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**Office Hours:**  
Monday – Friday  
9:00a.m. - 3:30p.m.

Senior Pastor: Rev. Jennifer Gingras  
Music Director: Will Duchon  
Secretary: Melissa Rosenberg  
Church email: [secretary@mcc-ucc.org](mailto:secretary@mcc-ucc.org)

**May 1, 2016**

## **When You Thought I Wasn't Looking**

(Written by a former child)



When you thought I wasn't looking, I saw you hang my painting on the refrigerator, and I wanted to paint another one.

When you thought I wasn't looking, I saw you fill the birdfeeder, and I learned that it was good to be kind to animals.

When you thought I wasn't looking, I saw you make my favorite cookies for me and I learned that the little things can be special.

When you thought I wasn't looking, I heard you say a prayer, and I knew there is a God I could talk to.

When you thought I wasn't looking, I saw you make a meal and take it to a friend who was sick, and I learned that we all have to help take care of each other.

When you thought I wasn't looking, I saw you give your time and money to help people who had nothing and I learned that those who have something should give to those who don't.

When you thought I wasn't looking, I saw you sing and I learned that if we spent more time singing the world would be a more beautiful place.

When you thought I wasn't looking, I saw you take care of our house and everyone in it and I learned we have to take care of what we are given.

When you thought I wasn't looking, I saw you laugh and learned that joy is a precious gift we should spread around more often.

When you thought I wasn't looking, I saw how you handled your responsibilities, even when you didn't feel good and I learned that I would have to be responsible too.

When you thought I wasn't looking, I saw tears roll down your cheek and I learned that sometimes we get hurt, but it's all right to cry.

When you thought I wasn't looking, I learned most of life's lessons that I need to know.

In peace, Pastor Jenn

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## Outreach



**CROP Walk: May 22<sup>nd</sup> from 1:30 to 5pm** Join us at the CROP walk at Seaside Park and raise funds to end hunger for our brothers and sisters locally and around the world. Options include a short, 3.7k walk and a long, 8 k walk.

**How it works:** To join the MCC team, please take an envelope from Trees Whitbeck and start collecting donations from sponsors. If you cannot walk, but still want to participate, please sponsor a walker at coffee hour. *Please note: All contributions are tax deductible.*



**Habitat Build Day: Saturday, May 7th 8am:** Break out those hammers; it's time to get to work! We are re-booting our Habitat for Humanity efforts in Bridgeport, under the leadership of coordinator John Sekelsky. Our first build day will be Saturday, May 7th. We meet here in the church parking lot at 8am for a carpool to the habitat offices in Bridgeport. PLEASE sign up in Wilton Hall so that we can communicate any last minute details to you!

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## Christian Education

### 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!) Because we expect the 60 openings to be snapped up soon, registration for church members only will run until April 30. The general public may begin registering on May 1. Registration forms are online at [mcc-ucc.org/ministries/vacation-bible-school.html](http://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](mailto:lanimsis@yahoo.com) or Liska Gutierrez at [liskag7@gmail.com](mailto:liskag7@gmail.com) for more information

## Junior Pilgrim Fellowship Future Plans



**-5/8: NO JR. PF** - *Enjoy Mothers Day!*

**-5/14 to 5/15: Jr. PF Lock-In and Food Pantry** - We will meet at the Monroe Food Pantry at 6:00 pm on Saturday. We will work at the pantry between 6-8 pm and then will carpool over to the church for the rest of the lock in. We ask that Jr. PFER's bring sleeping bags, pillows, change of clothes, snacks, and any sort of games that they may want for the night. We will be sleeping over at Wilton Hall and encourage the Jr. PFER's to come to church Sunday morning!

**-5/22: Crop Walk** - Jr. PFER's will have make a team and encourage church members to donate to the Crop Walk. We will meet down in Bridgeport with the rest of the MCC teams to walk the Crop Walk. Jr. PFER's are encouraged to wear active clothing and sneakers as the walk is quite lengthy!

**-5/29: NO JR. PF** *as it is Memorial Day Weekend*

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### Deacons



USHERS & GREETERS

**We need ushers and greeters** to welcome folks to 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](mailto:jspfalzgraf@gmail.com). Your help will be very much appreciated.

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### Fellowship

**Please join us for the MCC Book Club!**

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

**Retired Men's Breakfast** - Retired Men will meet for breakfast at 9:00am on May 11<sup>th</sup> in Dineson Parlor. Please call the office by Tuesday if you need a ride. 203-268-9327



**Morning Circle invites all the women of the congregation to their next meeting on Wednesday, May 11 at 11:00AM in Dineson Parlor.** We will have a representative from the

Bridgeport Rescue Mission speak about what they are and what they need to support those who use them. We will also be putting together birthday bags for the Food Pantry. These are great gifts for the kids who visit the Pantry with their parents. They contain a box of cake mix, frosting, birthday candles and napkins. With your help in donations of these items we can make lots of children very happy when they come to pick up food. Please leave any donations in the bin outside the church office and thank you so much for your support of this service project. Mark your calendars for the June luncheon on

Wednesday, June 8 (location to be decided). Contact Jackie Bleakney at 203-268-5275 with any questions or comments.

**Prayer Partners "Big Reveal" Luncheon is less than two weeks away on Sunday, May 15 at 11:15AM in Wilton Hall!!!** The sign up sheet is located in Wilton Hall. Please bring a dish to share and let me know if you need childcare for kids 2 years and younger while older ones can dine with us at the table. Keeping our partners in our thoughts if even for a moment takes a bit of stress out of our lives. Wonder what they are doing at that moment. Silently wish them a wonderful day. Find them during service to pass them peace. Strike up a conversation over a cup of tea at coffee hour. I look forward to seeing you at the luncheon. Please contact me at 203-268-0280 or at thecuseos@yahoo.com with any questions or comments.



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### Strawberry Festival News

Clark and John would like to **Thank you Berry Much** in advance for volunteering for the 2016 Strawberry Festival. Please join them for a pancake breakfast following service on June 5th. Take some time to review the festival signup sheets, ask questions about volunteering...all while enjoying delicious pancakes featuring a 'strawberry pancake'.



Will Berry the festival mascot make a special appearance?

### Strawberry Festival



Mark your calendars for the **45th Annual Strawberry Festival June 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup>**! 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!

### 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. We work in two shifts on listed Saturdays: 9:00am-12:30pm and 1:00pm-5:00pm. You can work one shift or both! Look for the sign-up sheet in Wilton Hall and mark your calendars...



Saturday, May 14<sup>th</sup>, Saturday, May 21<sup>st</sup>



**Strawberry Festival Kids Game Area:** In need of easy pop up tents to cover the area from hot sun. **We need 5 (five)** 12'x12' pop up tents or smaller to borrow for the weekend. Please contact Kyla Allen [Kylawa@earthlink.net](mailto:Kylawa@earthlink.net)

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## Trustees



**Trustees Spring Workday Saturday, May 14<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:dallen9457@att.net)

**The Trustees would like to replace the trees** we lost in one of the storms during their annual spring clean up on May 14<sup>th</sup>. Please consider making a donation to this project. Checks should be payable to MCC with the note "tree donation" in the memo line. Thank you, Dave Allen, MCC Property Manager



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## Community News

**Our own Director of Music, Will Duchon**, will be performing Beethoven's Choral Fantasy, Op. 80 (aka: Fantasia for Piano, Chorus and Orchestra) with the Danbury Symphony Orchestra and Chorus on May 8<sup>th</sup> at 3 pm at the beautiful WestConn Visual and Performing Arts Center, 43 Lake Avenue Extension, Danbury, CT. Free concert. Reviews of past concerts include:



- "Duchon Dazzles in Danbury" (we kid you not).
- "Duchon rippled through the technically challenging 'Etude pour les octaves' seemingly effortlessly."
- "Soloist (and WMNR program announcer) Will Duchon brought the house down in a commanding presentation of 'Piano Concerto No. 2 in C minor, Op. 18' by Sergei Rachmaninov (1873 - 1947)."
- "Suffice it to say that I was stunned when I listened to Duchon's masterful interpretations of these solo classics..."

In the past, upwards of 30 MCC'ers have swelled the ranks of concert-goers when Will has performed. Come join the fun and enjoy some music for the soul.

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## A Note from Kate Parker-Burgard

My family joins me in thanking the MCC community for all of your expressions of care in the wake of my father's death. We are keenly grateful for the 92 years that my father lived and for this community as you help us adjust to life without him. Your cards, words, thoughts and prayers have been received and they provide enormous comfort. Thank you.

Warmly, Kate

# Summer Camp at Hogwart's



August 1<sup>st</sup> to August 5<sup>th</sup>, 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 5<sup>th</sup> grade welcome. \$10 per child to cover supplies. Now accepting counselors in training in 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> 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 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.

# 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](mailto: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.



## MCC Community Calendar

### **Tues. May 3<sup>rd</sup>**

1:30pm Mustard Seed Sort & Tag  
7:30pm Rachel's Well (Dineson)

### **Wed. May 4<sup>th</sup>**

6:30pm Confirmation Class

### **Thurs. May 5<sup>th</sup>**

9:30am Bible Study  
6:30pm Bell Choir  
7:30pm Adult Choir

### **Sat. May 7<sup>th</sup>**

9:00am Dress A Girl Charity Event (Wilton Hall)  
4-8pm Junior PF at the Food Pantry

### **Week of May 8<sup>th</sup>**

*New Member Sunday*

10:00am Worship  
11:15am Junior Choir  
11:30am T'ai Chi (Side lawn)  
3:00pm Will Duchon Concert @Western Ct State University  
Visual Performing Arts Center  
6:00pm Senior PF

### **Tues. May 10<sup>th</sup>**

1:30pm Mustard Seed Sort & Tag

### **Wed. May 11<sup>th</sup>**

9:00am Retired Men (Dineson)  
11:00am Morning Circle (Dineson)  
6:30pm Confirmation Dinner (Wilton Hall)

### **Thurs. May 12<sup>th</sup>**

9:30am Bible Study  
6:30pm Bell Choir  
7:30pm Adult Choir

### **Sat. May 14<sup>th</sup>**

8:00am Jam Making  
6:00pm Junior PF Lock-In

### **Week of May 15<sup>th</sup>**

*Confirmation Sunday*

10:00am Worship  
11:15am Junior Choir  
11:15am Trustees Meeting (Classroom 4)  
11:30am T'ai Chi (Side lawn)  
11:15am Prayer Partners Potluck Lunch (Wilton)  
6:00pm Adult, Junior & Senior PF

### **Mon. May 16<sup>th</sup>**

7:30pm Church Council (Dineson)

### **Tues. May 17<sup>th</sup>**

1:30pm Mustard Seed Sort & Tag  
7:00pm VBS planning (Parsonage)

### **Wed. May 18<sup>th</sup>**

7:00pm CE Meeting (Dineson)

### **Thurs. May 19<sup>th</sup>**

9:30am Bible Study  
6:30pm Bell Choir  
7:30pm Adult Choir

### **Sat. May 20<sup>th</sup>**

8:00am Jam Making

### **Week of May 22<sup>nd</sup>**

*Guest Preacher Kristen Provost-Switzer*

10:00am Worship  
11:15am Junior Choir  
11:15am Deacons Meeting (Dineson)  
11:30am Crop Walk in Brideport  
6:00pm Junior & Senior PF

### **Tues. May 24<sup>th</sup>**

1:30pm Mustard Seed Sort & Tag  
7:30pm Divorce Support Group (Dineson)

### **Thurs. May 26<sup>th</sup>**

9:30am Bible Study  
12:00pm Young at Heart (tbd)  
6:30pm Bell Choir  
7:30pm Adult Choir