



# THE MONROE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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# STEEPLE

34 Church Street  
Monroe, CT 06468

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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 15, 2016**

## Confirmation

On Sunday, May 15<sup>th</sup> we joyfully confirmed 15 outstanding young people into membership at the Monroe Congregational Church. I'd like to thank their parents for supporting them through the process and offering help when asked. I'm also grateful for our lay teacher, Scott Switzer, who offered his faith story and leadership in the second half of the year. And I'm also thankful for the time and efforts put forth by their sponsors listed below, who have had wonderful experiences and heart-filled discussions with them this year.

We celebrated their accomplishments at a special dinner, cooked by chef Fred Dubois and his sous chef Jane Allen. The deacons were fabulous at setting up, serving and breaking down the event. The confirmands presented thoughtful projects, from musical performances (Lucas, Harrison, Tyler) to visual art (Alia, Allen, Alison, Jarrett, Campbell, Mack, TJ) to slideshows and videos (Rachel, Anna, Manaia) to dance (Amanda), to an electrical circuit light up cross (Justin). Their sponsors offered blessings and words of wisdom.

Since September, our confirmands have spent time every week growing, questioning, laughing, serving, praying together and deepening their faith and understanding of God and what it means to be followers of Jesus in today's world. What has been the most amazing and productive part of this year together is the deep, honest friendships they have built, which might even last a lifetime.

This group of young men and women epitomizes the famous saying of the apostle:

*"And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love!" - 1 Cor. 13:13 –  
Pastor Jenn*



*Congratulations to our 2016 Confirmands!*



*Confirmand*

*Alia Aguilar  
Rachel Colegrove  
Allen Crosnier  
Alison Cross  
Lucas Cuseo  
Anna Delaney  
Jarrett Denner  
Manaia Friend  
Harrison Gilberti  
Amanda Gill  
Campbell Halloran  
Mackenzie Metro  
Justin Riffard  
TJ Rohach  
Tyler Vaglivelio*

*Sponsor*

*Donna Gill  
Liz Sampson  
Josh Friend  
Jackie Bleakney  
Michelle Correll  
Donna Konkol  
Julia Gutierrez  
Kristina Logan  
Osiris Gutierrez  
Betsy Gilberti  
Diane Fraser  
Jane Allen  
Paulette Obertz  
Nick Caballero  
Clark Gingras*

**Deacons**

***Pastor Jenn will be on vacation from May 18<sup>th</sup> –May 22<sup>nd</sup>. Kristen Provost-Switzer will be our guest preacher on May 22<sup>nd</sup>.***



**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.

USHERS & GREETERS

**Do you have a few spare hours of time and would like to visit with and assist homebound members of our church community?** We may have an opportunity for you! The deacons along with our Sr. Pastor, are offering a pastoral care workshop to describe what is involved in the coordination and conduct of pastoral care for those potentially interested in assisting in this important program. A sign-up sheet has been posted in Wilton Hall for those interested and the workshop will be scheduled based on the availability of those who sign up. If you have any questions please feel free to contact Pastor Jenn or any deacon.

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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.*

## 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

**5/22: 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*

**6/5:** End of Year Party, details TBA

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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

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



**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 at The Tavern, 262 Main Street in Monroe on Thursday, May 26th. **Please call or text Donna Parratt by May 24<sup>th</sup> at 203-258-4210 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!

## 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! Sign-up sheets have been posted in Wilton Hall.



**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)

***Updated Directories are Available in the Church Office***

## **MCC Community Calendar**

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

#### **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

### **Week of May 29<sup>th</sup>**

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

#### **Mon. May 30<sup>th</sup>**

*Office Closed in Observance of Memorial Day*

#### **Tues. May 31<sup>st</sup>**

1:30pm Mustard Seed Sort & Tag

#### **Thurs. June 2<sup>nd</sup>**

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

### **Week of June 5<sup>th</sup>**

*Biscuit Communion Sunday*

10:00am Worship  
11:15am Junior Choir  
11:15am Strawberry Pancake Breakfast  
(Wilton Hall)  
6:00pm Adult, Senior & Junior PF

#### **Tues. June 7<sup>th</sup>**

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

#### **Wed. June 8<sup>th</sup>**

9:00am Retired Men (Dineson)  
11:00am Morning Circle (Dineson)

#### **Thurs. June 9<sup>th</sup>**

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

### **Week of June 12<sup>th</sup>**

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

#### **Fri. June 17<sup>th</sup>**

Strawberry Festival Set Up

#### **Sat. June 18<sup>th</sup> –Sun. Jun. 19<sup>th</sup>**

Strawberry Festival

### **Week of June 19<sup>th</sup>**

*Strawberry Festival Sunday*

10:00am Worship

#### **Mon. June 20<sup>th</sup>**

3:45pm St. George's Supper (Bridgeport)  
7:30pm Council Meeting (Dineson)

#### **Tues. June 21<sup>st</sup>**

7:30pm Bereavement Group (Dineson)

#### **Thurs. June 23<sup>rd</sup>**

12:00pm Young at Heart (Location TBD)

### **Week of June 26<sup>th</sup>**

10:00am Worship

#### **Tues. June 27<sup>th</sup>**

7:30pm Divorce Support (Dineson)

### **Week of July 3<sup>rd</sup>**

10:00am Worship w/Communion

#### **Mon. July 4<sup>th</sup>**

Office closed in observance of Independence Day

#### **Sat. July 9<sup>th</sup> –July 17<sup>th</sup>**

Senior PF Mission Trip

**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 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.