



# THE MONROE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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# 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.

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](mailto:secretary@mcc-ucc.org)

**September 1, 2016**

## Homecoming

The Merriam-Webster Dictionary defines "homecoming" as "the act of returning to your home or to a place that is like your home". For the Church "homecoming" means a return to our spiritual or faith home; a return from our summertime wanderings to the place at the center of our faith lives.



On Sunday, September 11<sup>th</sup>, we celebrate our homecoming. We look to this time not only as a reaffirmation of our commitment to God and our church, but a time to reconnect with our fellow sojourners.

Here at MCC we will mark this occasion with the following exciting events:

- Worship at 10:00 am
- A special introductory Sunday school class
- Ministry Fair with Sunday school and Youth Group registrations during Coffee Hour
- Youth Confirmation meeting at 11:30 am
- All Church Picnic at 1:00 pm at Wolfe Park
- Both Sr. PF and Jr. PF Kick Off at 6:30 pm

I will be at all of these events and I hope you will be too – in fact I invite you to come, this way we can meet and hopefully chat a bit.

What an exciting and fulfilling day we have planned. **If you have a child under the age of 18, make sure you stop by the Faith Formation table at the Ministry Fair to register for Sunday school and Youth Groups!**

Blessings and peace to you,

Debi Mastroni-Kenyon



## Jr. Pilgrim Fellowship Retreat

The Jr. Pilgrim Fellowship will be going on a retreat to Silver Lake Conference Center in Sharon, CT from October 14<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup>. If you have a child in 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade they are welcome to come on this weekend. For more information, please contact Debi at

[debi@mcc-ucc.org](mailto:debi@mcc-ucc.org).

### Jr. Pilgrim Fellowship Calendar

#### September

- 11<sup>th</sup> – Kick Off at 6:30 pm
- 18<sup>th</sup> – Regular Gathering at 6:30 pm
- 25<sup>th</sup> – Regular Gathering at 6:30 pm

#### October

- 2<sup>nd</sup> – NO Jr. PF
- 9<sup>th</sup> – Regular Gathering at 6:30 pm
- 16<sup>th</sup> – Retreat Weekend – NO Regular Gathering
- 23<sup>rd</sup> – Regular Gathering at 6:30 pm
- 30<sup>th</sup> – Regular Gathering at 6:30 pm (Halloween Party)

### Sunday School Calendar

#### September

- 11<sup>th</sup> – Sunday school Introduction class
- 18<sup>th</sup> – Regular Sunday school classes
- 25<sup>th</sup> – Regular Sunday school classes

#### October

- 2<sup>nd</sup> – Communion Sunday; classes for 3<sup>rd</sup> grade and under
- 9<sup>th</sup> - Regular Sunday school classes
- 16<sup>th</sup> - Regular Sunday school classes
- 23<sup>rd</sup> - Regular Sunday school classes
- 30<sup>th</sup> – NO Sunday school; Worship and Service for All Ages

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### Fellowship

**MCC Welcome Home Family Picnic, 1:30-4:30pm, 9/11/16, Wolfe Park, Cutlers Farm Road, Monroe** Please join our MCC family at the covered pavilion (next to the basketball courts) on Sunday, September 11, 2016 from 1:30pm - 4:30pm. Burgers and hot dogs will be provided and we encourage you to use your imagination to whip up one of your summer favorites to include in a potluck style lunch to share with all. Last names beginning with A-M please bring a salad/side, Last names beginning N-Z please bring a dessert. Please feel free to bring along tennis rackets, basketballs, Frisbees, etc. A



volleyball / badminton net will be set up as well as a bocce area. The cost (to cover grilled items, paper goods and drinks) is 10\$ per family or \$5 for an individual. Please Sign up in Wilton Hall.  
**The Fellowship Committee is asking to borrow golf clubs for a special game of Marshmallow Golf at the Family Picnic at Wolfe Park. Please bring them to the church office or the day of the picnic. Thank you!**

### Junior Choir

you there!

**Junior Choir resumes October 2nd at 11:15am in the meeting house.** The junior choir is open to children from kindergarten through 4<sup>th</sup> grade. We hope to see



**Morning Circle**~ On September 14<sup>th</sup> Ray Giovanni from Union Savings Bank will join Morning Circle to discuss financial scams. Please join us at 11am in Dineson Parlor.

### Retired Men's Breakfast

Retired Men will meet for breakfast at 9:00am on September 14<sup>th</sup> in Dineson Parlor. Please call the office by Tuesday if you need a ride.



### Prayer Partners Wanted!!



What is a Prayer Partner?, you may ask. A Prayer Partner signs up in Wilton Hall and receives a letter in the mail with the name and interests of another member of the congregation by the end of October. He/she will pray for them as often as possible, perhaps send them a card or letter in the mail using the church's address as the return. They might also seek them out before service and strike up a conversation, or pass them the peace or have a discussion over coffee or tea afterwards. They will continue to pray and keep them in

their thoughts until May 21, 2017 when we meet in Wilton Hall for the "big reveal" potluck luncheon. Being a Prayer Partner is every easy, requires hardly any time at all and has many rewards. Please consider signing up while reading what a few of 2016's Prayer Partners thought of the experience. Contact Susie Cuseo with any questions at 203-268-0280 or [thecuseos@yahoo.com](mailto:thecuseos@yahoo.com).

"Though I've never met my prayer partner, the continuing prayers for her drew me closer in spirit to her. The Prayer Partners group helped me to know more people of our church and to feel deeply."

"I think it is really wonderful to have prayer partners, because you always know there is someone out there thinking of us, and it is really nice to be able to pray for someone else and be there for them, even if they may not know it."

"I enjoyed this exercise as it made me make sure to pray multiple times per day reflecting on our many blessings and life experiences that contribute to our prayer requests."

### Mustard Seed Thrift Shoppe needs Volunteers!!

If you have free time to man the counter on Thursdays from 12-3, Fridays from 10-12:30 or 12:30-3 or Saturdays from 10-12 or 12-2, please contact Susie Cuseo at 203-268-0280 or

thecuseos@yahoo.com. It's very easy to open or close the Shoppe. If you are interested, you can stop by when the Shoppe is open and see what needs to be done by speaking to the volunteer or contact me and we can meet at the Shoppe at your available time. Opportunities are also available to those who can help sort, tag and hang merchandise in the morning on Tuesdays.

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**Outreach**

**Donations are needed for the Monroe Food Pantry**



Food Pantry Donations Needed

Juice (apple, cranberry, etc)	Peanut Butter & Jelly or Jam	Brownie Mix, Cake Mix Bisquick, pancake mix
Hamburger Helper	Chicken or Beef Broth	Flour, Sugar, Spices
Canned Tomatoes Canned beans ex: Kidney Beans, baked beans	Pet Supplies: Dog Food dry and wet Cat Food dry and wet Cat litter, toys,	Snack items i.e. cookies, goldfish crackers, individual pkgs of pretzels
Jarred Pasta Sauce	Cooking Oil	<b>Toiletries</b>
Cereal (hot or cold)	Non-Perishable Milk such as Parmalat	Shampoo & Conditioner, Soap
Canned Potatoes	Salad Dressing (any flavor)	Diapers, baby wipes, ointment
Egg Noodles	Ketchup, Mustard & Mayonnaise	Tooth Paste & Tooth Brushes

To donate perishable items such as eggs or milk please call 452-3770 to arrange a drop off time. For nonperishable items please place in the bin in the Rexford House-Thank you for your generosity.

**Covenant to Care Book Bags Needed**



This summer won't you shop for a child in need while you shop for your own child! We have children who need our help to give them a good start to the new school year! If you can't shop, please consider a donation to supply a child in the care of our DCF social workers with much needed school supplies & a book bag. Suggested Donation for Book Bag with Supplies \$25.00 each. Checks should be made out to M.C.C. and "memo-ed" for Covenant to

Care/School. Check for the children's "tags" in Wilton Hall coming soon. Please attach the "tag" to your Book Bag and leave it in/by the blue, collection bins outside the church office by Sunday, September 11th -Thank you!

The children thank you for your support!

Sincerely, Diane Prall , Monroe Congregational Church Liaison Covenant to Care

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**Monroe MusicFest**



The Monroe MusicFest is back by popular demand! Join us on Saturday, October 1 from 2:00pm-8:00pm for a variety of musical performances such as classical, jazz, rock, steelband, folk, bluegrass, show tunes, and more. There will be food for sale. Come join the fun!

## Ways You Can Obtain Tickets

Before we get to the subject of tickets, we are grateful to say that donations have just started to come in through the envelopes in the pews from MCC members. THANK YOU SO MUCH. (When you donate, be sure to let us know how you want the dedication to read – in honor of, etc.)

How to get tickets (\$15/individual; \$30/family) for MusicFest:

1. Online at <http://monroemusicfest.tix.com/schedule.aspx?orgnum=5356> or click through from the blogspot link at the bottom of this article.
2. Tickets will be sold at coffee hour starting Homecoming Sunday (September 11, 2016). Also they will be sold on the 18<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> of September at coffee hour.
3. Tickets are available in the office, Monday through Friday.
4. And of course, at the door (you will get your hand stamped – same as last year).

We are so excited to welcome back our own very popular Silver Threads Band (Rob and Julie, et al., e.g., John, Karen, Don, Pam). Also from the MCC family: Will is accompanying soprano Robin Sentell; Larry W. will be on cello once more; and we welcome back Danielle Fascione, vocalist/pianist. In addition, we will see familiar faces in the Silver Steel Band and Masuk Performing Arts. Also, Goldrush is part of the extended family (Gary Sippin). The Nicole Pasternak Trio is returning. Our talented friend, Donald Alfano, pianist and teacher, will be back and performing "influences in piano music." Generation Blues Band will again be filling Wilton Hall with its sound. Naida Rozenwald, violinist will be back. This year we have the delightful a cappella group, Sing We Enchanted. Also new is singer/songwriter, Bethany Dupuis. And last but definitely not least, the ever energetic Michael Jovovich and Dr. Joe Utterback.

To keep up to date, visit: <http://monroemusicfest.blogspot.com/>

Come hear the music in the air...

Paulette Obertz will be selling homemade applesauce to support the 2016 MusicFest. Each jar sells for \$5.00. Please contact Paulette at 203-216-4183



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## Community News

**Dog Walking Service:** Does your dog need more exercise? Is your dog home alone? I love animals and would love to help! Call Paulette Obertz 203-216-4183 for more information.



### **Matt & Marian Hampel have moved**

Marian and Matt Hampel  
3 Harbour Isle Dr East Unit 302  
Hutchinson Island FL 34949  
Marian's email: [maebeam16@gmail.com](mailto:maebeam16@gmail.com)





Lieselot Whitbeck and Jeremy Regan got married on June 10th. Lieselot is a pf alumni and John and Trees are the happy parents of the bride.

We want to thank you all for your support and congratulations. The young couple lives near Washington D C. Hooray for Lieselot and Jeremy

Lieselot & Jeremy

# SAVE

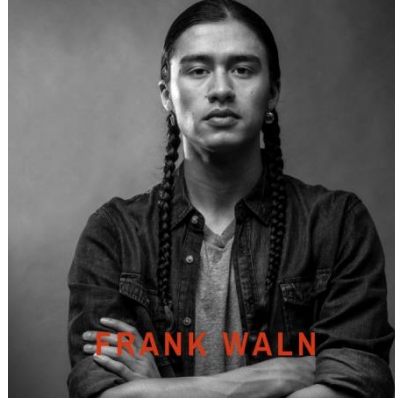
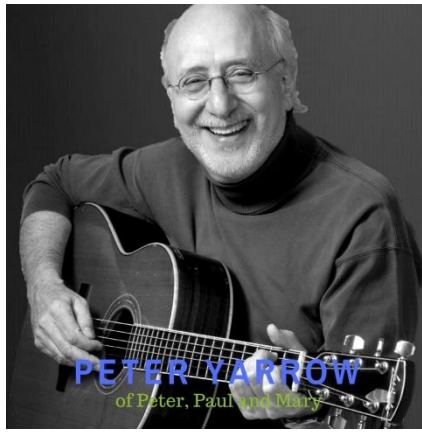
SIMPLY SMILES BENEFIT CONCERT

# THE

11.13.2016 | FAIRFIELD, CT

# DATE

TICKETS AVAILABLE SOON



**Peter Yarrow** of *Peter, Paul and Mary* is a friend of Simply Smiles

and has been a social activist for over fifty years. **Frank Waln** is a Lakota Hip Hop artist and activist who was featured on MTV's *Rebel Music*. **Kristen Graves** is a humanitarian who was called "the next generation of folk music" in the *New York Times*.

On **November 13th** (4:00 PM showtime) they will be performing at the **Quick Center in Fairfield, Connecticut** to support the work of Simply Smiles. This is an evening not to be missed. **Save the date!** Ticket sales begin soon.

## See you at the show on November 13th!

## **MCC Community Calendar**

### **Week of Sept. 4th**

10:00am Worship

### **Mon. Sept. 5<sup>th</sup>**

*Office Closed in Observance of Labor Day*

### **Sat. Sept. 10<sup>th</sup>**

8:00am Habitat for Humanity Work Day

### **Week of Sept. 11th**

*Homecoming Sunday*

10:00am Worship

11:15am Confirmation Parent Meeting  
(Dineson)

1:30pm Picnic at Wolfe Park

6:00pm Jr & Sr. PF

### **Wed. Sept. 14<sup>th</sup>**

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

11:00am Morning Circle (Dineson)

6:30pm Adult Confirmation Class (Dineson)

### **Thurs. Sept. 15<sup>th</sup>**

9:30am Bible Study (Dineson)

6:30pm Adult Choir (Meetinghouse)

### **Week of Sept. 18<sup>th</sup>**

10:00am Worship

Confirmand Bible Dedication

6:00pm Jr & Sr. PF

6:00pm Adult PF

### **Tues. Sept. 20<sup>th</sup>**

7:00pm Bereavement Group (Dineson)

7:00pm Council Meeting (Classroom 4)

### **Wed. Sept. 21<sup>st</sup>**

6:30pm Confirmation Class (Dineson)

### **Thurs. Sept. 22<sup>nd</sup>**

9:30am Bible Study (Dineson)

6:30pm Adult Choir (Meetinghouse)

### **Week of Sept. 25<sup>th</sup>**

10:00am Worship

6:00pm Jr & Sr. PF

### **Wed. Sept. 28<sup>th</sup>**

6:30pm Adult Confirmation Class (Dineson)

### **Thurs. Sept. 29<sup>th</sup>**

9:30am Bible Study (Dineson)

6:30pm Adult Choir (Meetinghouse)

12:00pm Young at Heart (location tbd)

### **Sat. Oct. 1<sup>st</sup>**

2:00pm-8:00pm MusicFest

### **Week of Oct. 2<sup>nd</sup>**

10:00am Worship

11:15am Junior Choir (Meetinghouse)

6:00pm Jr & Sr. PF

### **Wed. Oct. 5<sup>th</sup>**

6:30pm Confirmation Class (Dineson)

### **Thurs. Oct. 6<sup>th</sup>**

9:30am Bible Study (Dineson)

6:30pm Adult Choir (Meetinghouse)

### **Week of Oct. 9th**

*Baptism Lina & Braeden Birn*

10:00am Worship

11:15am Junior Choir (Meetinghouse)

6:00pm Jr & Sr. PF

### **Mon. Oct 10<sup>th</sup>**

Office Closed Columbus Day

### **Wed. Oct. 12<sup>th</sup>**

9:00am Retired Men's Breakfast (Dineson)

11:00am Morning Circle (Dineson)

### **Thurs. Oct. 13<sup>th</sup>**

9:30am Bible Study

7:30 Adult Choir

### **Fri. Oct. 14<sup>th</sup>-Sun. Oct. 16<sup>th</sup>**

Senior PF Retreat to Silver Lake

Junior PF Retreat to Silver Lake