

34 Church Street  
Monroe, CT 06468  
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www.mcc-ucc.org

**Office Hours:**  
Mon. 9am – 5:30pm  
Wed. (remotely) 8am - 6pm  
Fri. 9am – 3:30pm

Senior Pastor: Rev. Jennifer Gingras  
Music Director: Will Duchon  
Administrator/Bookkeeper: Diane Prall  
CE Coordinator: Jeanette Cardentey-Morales  
Church e-mail: secretary@mcc-ucc.org

**Find us on YouTube** <https://www.youtube.com/monroecongregationalchurchucc>



**THE** MONROE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
**STEEPLE**

**June 1, 2024**

*"Come to me all you who are weary and carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest."*  
Matthew 11:28

Dear Members & Friends of MCC,

This is the day that God has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it! As of the writing of this article we just enjoyed a beautiful Confirmation Sunday and we're looking ahead to all the celebrations this time of year brings us.

We're also thick into the final weeks of preparation for the 52<sup>nd</sup> Annual Strawberry Festival on June 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>! This truly is an all-hands-on-deck moment in our lives together. All ages and abilities are welcome to volunteer! Some of the best connections have been made simply by working side by side with one another. Be sure to stop by the volunteer table to get a nametag and sign in.

Please be ready to work with food, even if you think you are volunteering for a non-food spot. Seasoned volunteers know that the work has ebbs and flows, and sometimes we need everyone to hull and slice berries! Be ready by wearing closed toe shoes, if you have long hair tie it up, and bring a hat, water bottle and sunscreen.

You can help us gear up by providing baked goods for the Country Store! Setup on Friday is another opportunity to start us off on the right foot. Early morning pickers are always needed in the fields, we love to have a lighthearted competition about who picks the most pounds of berries. Remember that many hands make light work. Be sure to sign up so that our co-chairs: Clark Gingras, Susie Cuseo, Frank Wittenauer, and Josh Post can rest easy knowing they can count on you.

Looking ahead to the summer... These last several years have been difficult for many of us, often in more than one way. The exhaustion and sense of feeling overwhelmed and anxious is pretty normal after all we have been through. That's why for this summer, I am hoping we can all make a real effort to take Jesus' words of invitation above as the guiderails, not only as a church but also as individuals.

I hope you will come to worship this summer not because you must, but because you want to be with us, your faith community and family. I hope you will be here because it is a place where you find solace and peace, if only for a moment. Please take the time to find rest for your bodies and your souls



in these next weeks and months. Before you know it, August will be here and we'll be gearing up for a new program year in the church. Until then, let's all just rest and renew so that we are ready for God's emerging new beginnings.

In peace, Pastor Jenn

\*\*\*\*\*

**52<sup>nd</sup> Strawberry Festival 2024**  
**will be held on Saturday, June 15 (10am-5pm)**  
**& Sunday, June 16 (12pm-5 pm)**

Monroe Congregational Church

Strawberry  
Festival  
Kick Off

**Our kickoff will be on Sunday, June 2 when communion will be served with biscuit and festival wear will be sold during coffee hour.** Please contact co-chairs with any questions, comments or concerns: Susie Cuseo, Clark/Jenn Gingras, Josh Post and Frank Wittenauer. They'll be the ones wearing their Festival shirts for the occasion.



Can you believe it? Our annual Strawberry Festival is only two weeks away! We are more than prepared for it with over 1,300 jars of jam, 150 strawberry breads, more than 100 vendors, 10 games primmed and ready for little hands to participate in, gallons of ice cream and bags and bags of ice, burgers and hot dogs. Our bounce house will return to bring lots of kids bouncing thrills as well as our Country Store filled with your donated baked goods for sale along with strawberry pie, dipped strawberries and quart containers filled with.... you guessed it, strawberries that you've picked three mornings in a row. Don't forget face painting and the amazing entertainment we have lined up.



**Please sign up.**

Isn't it getting you so excited for the weekend to be here? Volunteers are what make our festival a huge success -please give your time, talent and dedication.

Sign up using this link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E094CAEAA22A4FB6-49507863-strawberry>

Please contact co-chairs Susie Cuseo, Clark/Jenn Gingras, Josh Post or Frank Wittenauer with any questions, comments or concerns.



Remember that the **Country Store will need baked goods to sell.** So please bake up your delicious goodies! Please do not send in things that will melt.

## Christian Education

### Junior PF Schedule through the end of the program year:

**June 2nd** – 11 am, Jr PF Graduation Party

**June 9th** – Jr PF sees M&M's show (Jeanette's Birthday!)

**June 15/16** – Jr PF helps with Country Store & Children's Games



## Graduate Sunday, June 16, 2024

Have you or a loved one recently completed high school, college/ university, graduate school, or another educational program?

Join us for Worship on June 16th so we can celebrate your achievement!

Contact the church office with the details, and let us know where you are headed next!

\*\*\*\*\*

### Trustees



The **Monroe Summer Day Camp** will be renting our MCC campus again this year. The camp will provide added income for the church during the months of June, July and August. If you need to enter the building between 7:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday – Friday please stop into the office and ask Diane to notify the camp director. If the office is closed, please use the walkie-talkie provided to notify the camp director, Karen, of your presence. Thank you!



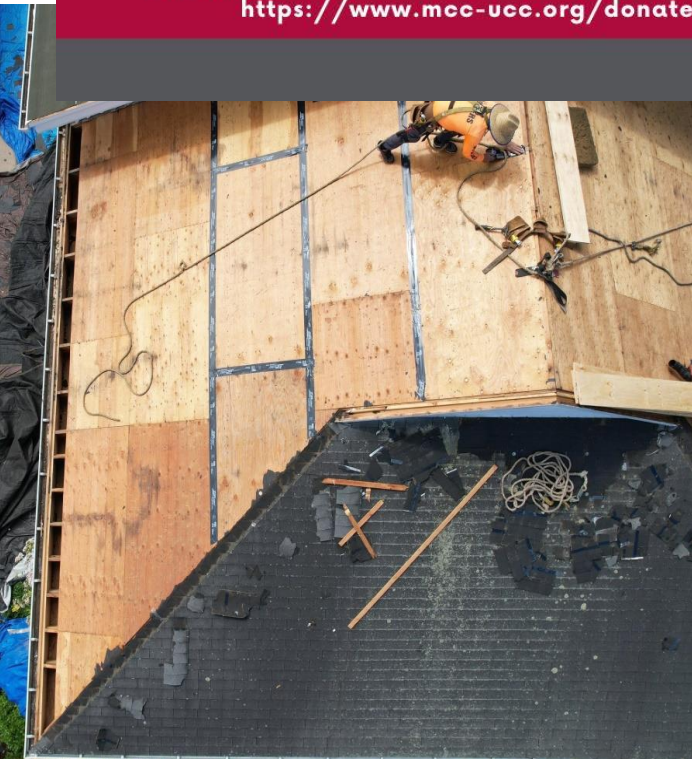
## 2024 CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

### REPLACING THE MEETINGHOUSE ROOF



Our historic campus requires regular maintenance, inside and out. The roof of the Meeting House has been leaking due to recent wind and weather damage. The estimated cost for repairs is \$30,000, and we plan to do the work done ASAP.  
*Thanks for your support!*

**To contribute, send a check with the memo: Capital Campaign  
or donate on our website (choosing Capital Projects)  
<https://www.mcc-ucc.org/donate.html>**





**Flowers for Worship:** Would you like to honor or remember a loved one, or celebrate a milestone? You can do so, while also helping Monroe Congregational Church continue its tradition of fresh **flowers** on the communion table. You can sign-up in Wilton Hall or online! You may choose to arrange flowers from your garden, purchase an arrangement, or send a check (\$25) to Monroe Congregational Church (memo: "flowers" & the date) or use our website to pay online, and we will order for you. If you are supplying the flowers yourself, please set them up between 9:30am and 9:45am, before worship. Thank you!

[https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C48ADAC2CA5FEC61-flowers or MCC-UCC.org](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C48ADAC2CA5FEC61-flowers-or-MCC-UCC.org)

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**Fellowship**

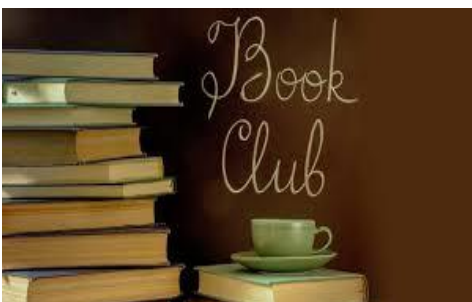


**MCC Summertime Coffee Hour Hosts:** Are you interested in providing refreshments for our church members and friends following Sunday worship! All you need to do is arrive at the kitchen by 9:45 to get the coffee going (instructions found on kitchen wall). Providing baked goods or other snacks are always welcome (but not mandatory). Please sign up in Wilton Hall. (Although one can do it, it's fun to serve with a friend). Thank you!

**Adult PF** scheduled for **Saturday, 6/1** is cancelled.



**Young at Heart** will meet **Thursday, June 27** at noon  
Details to be announced



**We encourage anyone to join us on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month.**

We will continue to meet via zoom so that all members can join from wherever they may be. Questions can be sent to Paula via email [pjsh55@gmail.com](mailto:pjsh55@gmail.com) or home phone or 203-452-0850. The book club selections for upcoming months:

**June 19<sup>th</sup> - CANCELED**

**July 17<sup>th</sup>** 7 pm Horse by Geraldine Brooks Host: TBA

## Outreach



**Morning Circle** would like to invite all the women of the congregation to their **last meeting before the summer on Wednesday, June 12<sup>th</sup>**. We will meet at **Sal's on 25 for lunch at 12pm** to celebrate togetherness and service. If you'd like to carpool from the church's parking lot, be there at 11:45. **We will not meet in July or August.** Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, September 11 at 11AM in Dineson Parlor. We look forward to seeing you at Sal's for a delicious meal and wonderful conversation.

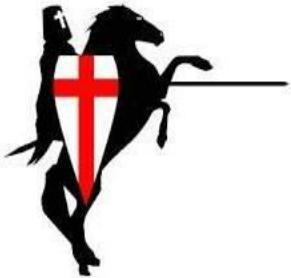
Please contact Shari Carrano at 475-342-8145 with any questions, comments or concerns.



Help Needed for the **Mustard Seed Thrift Shoppe!** Do you have spare time on Tuesdays at 1pm? Volunteers come to the back entrance of the Shoppe to help sort, hang and tag merchandise that have been donated. It's easy to do and any of the ladies can help you figure it out. Donations of gently-used clothing, toys, shoes, book and small household products can be left in the collection box just outside the Shoppe, brought in on Tuesdays while the ladies are sorting or during business hours: Fridays 10-3 or Saturdays 10-2. Sales associates are also needed during two-hour shifts when the Shoppe is open. You can either open or close and it's easy to do. Come visit the volunteer and she'll gladly show you what needs to be done. A procedure list can be sent to you via email by contacting Susie Cuseo at [thecuseos@yahoo.com](mailto:thecuseos@yahoo.com) or 203-268-0280, if you need more information or have questions or comments.

Putting in an extra effort! **"Thank you"** to our MSS volunteers, Peggy V., Jan P., Kathy A., Lois S., Judy D., Marge F., Cheri I., Linda F. and Joyce R., who turned out to put in extra hours to get all the boxes emptied for the strawberry festival!

WOOHOOO WE DID IT  
**THANK YOU  
EVERYONE!**



### **St George's Supper – Next Monday, June 10th**

Please join us for sandwich making in the kitchen following worship on Sunday, June 10th. Please consider a cash donation this month to help us feed our neighbors, look for the basket at coffee hour to contribute. Any amount would be gratefully received. Please memo on checks: "St George's Supper". Please contact Stacy at 203-500-1279 with questions. Thank you!



Heifer International is a group that partners with smallholder farmers – especially women farmers – to improve their families' food security and increase their incomes. They offer tools, training and resources that help farmers work together to build profitable, sustainable businesses with strong market linkages. They are partnership-driven in the countries where they work with farmer groups, businesses, governments and move to strengthen local ownership and improve the lives of farming families. You can help out by dropping your spare change into the collection jar that can be found on the serving table during coffee hour. At the end of the year Morning Circle will send out a check that will provide livestock and plants to those in need around the world. Please contact Susie

Cuseo at [thecuseos@yahoo.com](mailto:thecuseos@yahoo.com) or 203-268-0280 for more information or comments about how you too can help.



Thank you! Thank you! Thank you to all my Prayer Partners. This year we had 39 members volunteer to pray with and for each other. We had a wonderful "Big Reveal" luncheon where we found out who's been praying for whom. It's amazing to see everyone come together over a potluck meal and be surprised at hearing the name of the person who's been praying for you. We will start this up again in the fall when sign-up sheets will be posted in Wilton Hall. I hope that many return to pray for someone different.

It doesn't take a lot of time; just a moment out of your day to wish your partner a great day or hope that they work through whatever they may encounter during waking hours.



Please contact Susie Cuseo at [thecuseos@yahoo.com](mailto:thecuseos@yahoo.com) or 203-268-0280 with any questions, comments or concerns.

Here's a testimonial from one of the participants:

"I loved being a prayer partner! I loved getting letters and messages from my partner. The emails I received from Susie kept me accountable."



*FROM THE HISTORIAN'S NOTEBOOK*



## VICTORIAN CHRISTMAS FAIR



Seeking creative minds to work together to offer an MCC Christmas Fair on December 1st, 2024. Inquiring minds may contact Gary Thompson, Church Historian, [mailglt@yahoo.com](mailto:mailglt@yahoo.com) to join the team.

*A sign-up sheet has also been posted in Wilton Hall for the group of these creative minds to commit to organize this fundraiser event into a reality.*



**Panera**  
**FUNDRAISING**



*Help support us!*

# Monroe Congregational Church

**25%**  
**OF SALES**  
**WILL BE**  
**DONATED**

**June 22, 2024**  
**4:00 pm to 8:00 pm EDT**  
**205 Monroe Turnpike, Monroe, CT**

Use code FUND4U at online checkout, in the Panera App,  
or at the kiosk in-café.\*

Bring this flyer or show a digital copy to your cashier when ordering at the café or enter the promo code FUND4U at checkout on Panerabread.com or the Panera App to ensure your organization gets a portion of the proceeds.\*\*

Learn more at [fundraising.panerabread.com](http://fundraising.panerabread.com)

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\*Gift card and catering order placed on Panerabread.com, and delivery orders placed through third-party sites are excluded and will not count towards the event. Other restrictions apply. For complete details, visit: <http://fundraising.panerabread.com/terms-conditions/>. \*\*Services vary by café.

Many events take place in Dineson Parlor like Morning Circle, Sr. PF meetings and numerous boards gather there to make huge decisions for our church. It's time to refurbish the furniture in that room to make it a comfortable space to get things done. Panera Bread in Monroe will accept your **promo code FUND4U** on **Saturday, June 22 from 4-8PM** so that with your purchase of a meal **25% will go back to MCC. Simply supply the code or bring a copy of the flyer with you.** Mobile, online and kiosk orders can use the same promo code prior to payment. Online orders throughout the day will also add to the collected funds. Support our Refurbishing Campaign by dining out that evening. Please contact Susie Cuseo at [thecuseos@yahoo.com](mailto:thecuseos@yahoo.com) or 203-268-0280 with any questions, concerns or comments.

**Thank you for your support!**

# RAISE SOME DOUGH

*Help support us!*

25% of sales will benefit  
**Monroe Congregational Church**

**June 22, 2024**  
**4:00 pm to 8:00 pm EDT**  
**205 Monroe Turnpike**  
**Monroe, CT**

In Cafe • Drive-Thru • Pick-Up • Delivery  
Enter promo code FUND4U at online checkout.

**Panera**  
**FUNDRAISING**



The Monroe Congregational  
Church Presents

***STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL  
CRAFT & FINE ART SHOW  
CELEBRATING SINCE 1972!***

Join us Father's Day Weekend  
Saturday, June 15th, 10 am - 5 pm  
Sunday, June 16th, 12 pm - 5 pm

Over 100 Juried Crafters & Artisans, plus  
Homemade Strawberry Shortcakes, Pies,  
Jams & Dipped Berries, Food Tent, Kid's  
Games, Face-Painting, Country Store,  
Smoothies and so much more!

**Featuring Live Entertainment by:**

*Saturday:* Gunsmoke 11-1,  
Stratford Community Concert Band 1-2:30  
*Sunday:* Silver Steel Band 1-3

**34 Church Street \* Monroe, CT  
203-268-9327 \* [mcc-ucc.org](http://mcc-ucc.org)  
[www.facebook.com/MCCSF1972](http://www.facebook.com/MCCSF1972)**

***Free admission and parking  
at Fireman's Field***



## In Our Prayers

**Bryan Garvin** (Mike Pfalzgraf's cousin); **John Dominic** (Pfalzgraf's neighbor); **Alison Abrams** (Jessica Pfalzgraf's sister); **Allie** (Colegrove's friend); **Jennifer Bittar** (Loraine Zeiner's friend); **Jackie Bleakney; Byron Brown & Bruce Bryant** (friends of Will Duchon); **Lori Cimeno** (Peggy & Ron Villani's Daughter); **Kevin Daly** (Gary Thompson's friend); **Dawn** (Donna Konkol's Friend); **Dot Dralus; Matt Duchon; Elaine** (Wendy Colegrove's Aunt); **Bruno Forte** (Nancy Hedine's friend); **David Fischman** (Sue Granello's Friend); **Dave Fuller** (Gail Olson's brother); **Lehre Fuller** (Gail Olson's sister-in-law); **Peter Hallgren; Mary & Rachel Heerema** (Julia Gutierrez's mom & sister); **Brad Heines** (Susie Cuseo's friend); **Bob Heffernan** (Ann Zeiner's son-in-law); **Heather Henning; Brian Hopkins** (Donna Konkol's cousin); **Vera James** (Jenn Wissink's mother); **Jonathan** (Matt Colegrove's brother); **Kelti** (friend of Liska Gutierrez); **Walter Lane** (Marge Fox's brother-in-law); **Monica Lynch** (Bethany Dupuis' friend); **Nicole Malia; Betty McKeown** (Donna Konkol's mother); **Mike** (Janie Allen's son); **Jean Moffat; Olivia Morrison** (Donna Nickdow's niece); **Joe Mumper** (Julie McClenathan's friend); **Pat Nugent; Drake Oatis; Ocampo family** (friends of Liska Gutierrez); **Nancy Olofson; Missy & Gail Olson; Dean Perosino** (Gayle Hammond's brother); **Josh Post; P.T. Philip** (Liz Sampson's father); **Regina Roberts** (Kathy Maiolo's niece); **Alfredo Rodriguez** (Osirus Gutierrez's cousin); **Noah Santiago** (Shari Carrano's great-grandson); **Carlos Serrano** (Kathy Maiolo's cousin); **Yessika Siccardi** (Sampson family friend); **Ed Simonovich** (Nancy Hedine's friend); **Bernie Sippin; Gary Sippin** (Lori Sippin's son); **John Skarupa** (Barb Pellegrino's brother); **Sheldon Smith; Christine Stadler; Christian & Dain Steiner** (Julie McClenathan's nephews); **Claire Stenzel** (June & Myron Wininger's granddaughter); **Wayne Thompson** (Gary Thompson's brother); **Richard Turco** (Jack Fracassini's cousin); **June Wilkes, Charles L. Wynn, Sr.,** (and his mother) **Alleane** (friend of Will Duchon); **Allen Zeiner** (Ann Zeiner's son); **Ann Zeiner**

**The concerns of our world:** The people of **Ukraine** and the **Middle East; LGBTQ+ children and their families** facing discrimination; those who serve or live in **war or conflict zones** around the world; **first responders** and those who serve in **law enforcement**; those who suffer **discrimination**; those who struggle with **mental illness, addiction, divorce or separation; Caregivers**; the **homeless, homebound and refugees.**

### **Those serving in the military, veterans & their families:**

Stateside: **Lt. Col. Rachel Hoffman**, Tacoma, Washington (Vaughan Askue's daughter) **Justin Riffard**, Pensacola Naval Air Station, **Zachary Gingras**, 395th Combat Sustainability Support, **Joel Smith**, 250th Engineering Company **Chris Meneses** (Loraine Zeiner's friend)

Kuwait: **Jon Sanchez** (Don Whiteley's grandson-in-law)



**Happy Birthday** to the following people and to anyone we may have missed we will keep you in our prayers.

Rebecca	Cicarelli	06/02
Jill	Sapak	06/03
Jaxon	Sullivan	06/04
Glenn	Brigham	06/05
June	Wilkes	06/05
Bill	Brett	06/08
Kyle	Konkol	06/08
Jeanette	Cardentey-Morales	06/09
Cynthia	Kovacs	06/10
Abby	Coleman	06/11
June	Wininger	06/11
Rich	Correll	06/14

Paul	Cardentey	06/15
Betsy	Dutton	06/16
Danielle	Smith	06/17
Kathryn	Young	06/19
Scott	Young	06/19
Chantal	Crosnier	06/20
Meg	Sullivan	06/20
Juliette	Nealon	06/21
Michael	Ganino	06/23
Julia	Gutierrez	06/23
Hannah	Halloran	06/23
Sarah	Post	06/29
Dan	Sullivan	06/29
Jennifer	Gingras	06/30
David	Walker	06/30



**Congratulations to  
Marc and Paul Cardentey  
on their June 1<sup>st</sup> wedding vow renewal!**

**Happy Wedding Anniversary** the following couples and to anyone we may have missed, we will keep you in our prayers.

(Number is anniversary date)

Richard & Lynda Bauer<sup>(01)</sup> Kathy & David Allen<sup>(03)</sup>

Joel & Danielle Smith<sup>(03)</sup> Scott & Katie Young<sup>(05)</sup>

Paula & Carl Haggstrom<sup>(06)</sup>

Chuck & Bonnie Schneider<sup>(13)</sup>

Don & Kate Parker-Burgard<sup>(16)</sup>

Ron & Peggy Villani<sup>(24)</sup>

and Stacy & Mark Andrejczyk<sup>(29)</sup>



## June 2024 MCC Community Calendar

### Week of Sun. June 2<sup>nd</sup>

*Communion, Teacher Appreciation,  
SF Launch*

10:00 am Worship

11:30 am Trustees

5:00 pm Junior & Senior PF

### **Mon. June 3<sup>rd</sup>**

7:00 pm Outreach

### **Tue. June 4<sup>th</sup>**

1:00 pm Mustard Seed Sort & Tag

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

9:30 am Final Bible Study of season

6:00 pm Bell Choir

7:00 pm Chancel Choir

### Week of Sun. June 9<sup>th</sup>

*Youth Sunday*

10:00 am Worship

M&Ms show Junior PF

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

7:30 pm Deacons

### **Tue. June 11<sup>th</sup>**

1:00 pm Mustard Seed Sort & Tag

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

11:00 am Morning Circle Picnic

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

6:00 pm Bell Choir

7:00 pm Chancel Choir



**June 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup>**



## **52nd Annual Strawberry Festival**

### Week of Sun. June 16<sup>th</sup>

*Father's Day, Graduation  
Strawberry Festival Sunday*

10:00 am Worship

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

7:30 pm Council

### **Tue. June 18<sup>th</sup>**

1:00 pm Mustard Seed Sort & Tag

### **Wed. June 19<sup>th</sup>**

7:00 pm Book Club

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

6:00 pm Bell Choir

7:00 pm Chancel Choir

### Week of Sun. June 23<sup>rd</sup>

10:00 am Worship

5:00 pm Senior PF

### **Tue. June 25<sup>th</sup>**

1:00 pm Mustard Seed Sort & Tag

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

12:00 pm Young @ Heart

6:00 pm Bell Choir

7:00 pm Chancel Choir

*Pastor Jenn is on vacation June 30 – July 6*

### Week of Sun. June 30<sup>th</sup>

10:00 am Worship

5:00 pm Senior PF