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www.mcc-ucc.org

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

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# THE STEEPLE

August 1, 2025

### August: The Month Time Forgot

Ah, August. That strange little month that feels like one long Sunday evening. June is full of promises, featuring graduations, Strawberry Festival, even weddings. July is full of popsicles, camping and fireworks. But August? August is trying to figure out if it should be wearing sunscreen or buying an academic planner.

August is also when we start gently ramping up for fall. That means committee meetings are poking their heads out of hibernation, choir folders are getting dusted off, and there are whispers of “rally day” in the hallways like it’s some sort of sacred code word.

But let’s not rush too quickly. This is still summer, after all. There’s time for one more cookout, one more lazy afternoon, one more walk without a jacket. There’s spiritual value in rest. Even God took a break on the seventh day, so don’t let anyone guilt you out of some extra hammock time.

Friends, August is a gift. It gives us room to breathe, to listen, to recalibrate. Whether you’re out on vacation, sneaking in a few more beach days, or just soaking up the slower pace, we hope you’ll remember that God meets you right where you are. Even in the blur of back-to-school sales and the mysterious disappearance of all the good pens in the junk drawer.

We’ll see you soon, flip-flops optional, smiles encouraged.

*Grace & peace, Pastor Jenn*





Diane is scheduled for vacation on Mondays throughout August. She will continue to work from home on Wednesdays where she will receive your voicemail and e-mail messages.

The church office will be open on Fridays. Thank you!

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### Fellowship



**Young at Heart** will meet on August 28th at noon.  
Arlene Redmond and Vaughan Askue will be providing details.



**The Mustard Seed Thrift Shoppe** will reopen on Friday, August 22. Please contact Susie Cuseo at [thecuseos@yahoo.com](mailto:thecuseos@yahoo.com) or 203-268-0280 if you like to take a shift. Many thanks to all our diligent volunteers who man the counter and take care of our donations.

Join us online for the monthly **Book Club** on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month at 7 pm. 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.

Aug. 20<sup>th</sup> *Remarkably Bright Creatures* by Shelby Van Pelt

Sept. 17<sup>th</sup> *Mad Honey* by Jodi Picoult and Jennifer Finney Boylan

Oct. 15<sup>th</sup> *The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek* by Kim Michele Richardson



**Morning Circle** invites the women of the congregation to join them every second Wednesday of the month (except January, February, July and August). Please contact Shari Carrano at 475-342-8145 with any questions, comments or concerns.

### **"Guess Who? Then & Now" – A Fun Church Photo Challenge!**

We're inviting all members to take a stroll down memory lane! As part of our upcoming "Guess Who? Then & Now" event, we ask you to submit two photos:

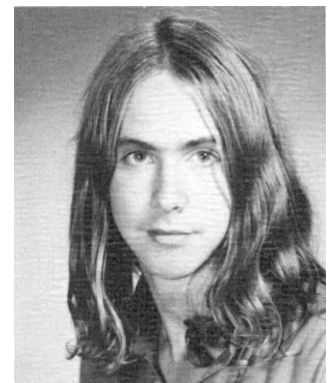
- One from your teen years (or a baby photo if you're currently a teen), and
- One recent photo of yourself.

We'll be displaying the photos— without names — on the bulletin board in Wilton Hall, where everyone can try to guess who's who!

This is a fun way to celebrate our church family through the years, put names to faces, and share a few laughs and memories along the way.

Please email your photos to [secretary@mcc-ucc.org](mailto:secretary@mcc-ucc.org) or drop off physical copies at the church office **by August 31st**. Be sure to label them clearly on the back or in the email (we'll keep the labels hidden during the guessing!).

Let's see how well we really know each other!





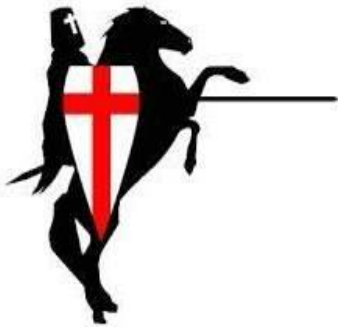
**Flowers for Worship:** Would you like to honor or remember a loved one, or celebrate a milestone? You can do so, while also helping Monroe Congregational Church continue its tradition of fresh flowers on the communion table. Sign-up in Wilton Hall or online! You may choose to arrange flowers from your 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>

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**Outreach**

**St George's Supper –Monday, August 11<sup>th</sup>**



Please join us for sandwich making in the kitchen following worship on August 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!

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**Christian Education**



Love working with youth, want to spread God's love to the children of our congregation in this upcoming **25/26 school year**? **Please consider teaching Sunday School** (Pre k - 6th) **or being an adult advisor for our Jr PF youth group** (ages 11-14). You can speak to Jeanette with any questions or to express interest. Thank you! See you in the fall!

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**Victorian Christmas Fair - *Save the Date***

**Saturday, December 6, 2025**





Monroe Congregational Church  
34 Church Street, Monroe CT

## **Victorian Fair**

### **Saturday, December 6, 2025**

10am – 3pm

Dear Victorians of MCC:

The Chairs of the forthcoming Second Annual Victorian Christmas Fair shall require your valuable experience from the previous annum, as well as your gracious desire to partake newly in this most festive of endeavors. Pray, don your Victorian thought caps and bonnets, and lend us your presence and ideas at a meeting yet to be determined to deliberate and plan for the approaching celebration.

Yours faithfully and most sincerely,

The Victorian Chairs,  
Arlene, Barbara and Jessica



All interested parties and those with inquiries are most respectfully requested to direct their correspondence to Mrs. Arlene Redmond, Mrs. Barbara Pellegrino, or Mrs. Jessica Pfalzgraf.



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

Brian	Campbell	08/02	Danielle	Rooney	08/12
Karen	Coffey	08/02	Van	Smith	08/12
Margery	Fox	08/02	Heather	Hisey	08/13
Beverly	Shaffer	08/02	Donna	Konkol	08/13
Jordan	Yang	08/02	Franklin	Renz	08/13
Kate	Briggs	08/04	Kelsey	Kaminski	08/14
Nick	Caballero	08/04	Mary	Renz	08/15
Lisa	Bauerle	08/05	Mary	Unger	08/19
Jeff	Vargovchik	08/07	Eva	Viggiano	08/22
Jenn	Nealon	08/08	George	Cunningham	08/24
Anthony	Prall	08/08	Jennifer	Wissink	08/25
Sophina	Gingras	08/09	Nicole	Malia	08/28
Haley	Brown	08/11	Sue	Waters	08/28
Wendy	Colegrove	08/12			
Amy	O'Rourke	08/12			



**Happy August Wedding Anniversary** the following couples and to anyone we may have missed, we will keep you in our prayers. (Number is anniversary date)

Jack & Linda Fracassini <sup>(05)</sup> Tom & Carol Kelly <sup>(05)</sup> Cliff & Susie Cuseo <sup>(05)</sup>  
 Joe & Betsy Gilberti <sup>(09)</sup> Heather & Chris Hisey <sup>(19)</sup> Manny & Michelle Cardentey <sup>(21)</sup>  
 Kenneth & Nancy Olofson <sup>(22)</sup> and Rob & Kelsey Kaminski <sup>(24)</sup>  
 and Kristen Prall & Nicholas Boronski <sup>(29)</sup>

PRESENTS

**MORE  
MUSIC**



# A SUMMER FESTIVAL CHORUS

SUNDAY ◦ 24 AUGUST 2025 ◦ 3:00PM



**DR. JOE UTTERBACK**  
GUEST ARTIST



**CONSTANCE CHASE**  
CONDUCTOR

## SAINT THOMAS MORE CHURCH

374 MIDDLESEX ROAD  
DARIEN, CONNECTICUT 06820  
203-655-3303

[WWW.STMDARIENCT.ORG](http://WWW.STMDARIENCT.ORG)



FEATURING MORTEN LAURIDSEN'S  
**LUX AETERNA**

WITH ADDITIONAL WORKS BY  
FLORENCE PRICE & RENÉ CLAUSEN

GALEN TATE & NEIL FLORES  
ORGAN



**FREE ADMISSION**

**Julie McClenathan will be singing at this concert!**

## **In Our Prayers**

Linda Resnick; Mary Jo Brett; Cathy J. (Julie McClenathan's Friend); (Jessica Pfalzgraf's sister); Allie (Colegrove's friend); Jennifer Bittar (Loraine Zeiner's friend); Jackie Bleakney; Lisa Cody & Dave Barton (friends of Julie and Rob McClenathan); James Brown, Debbie Cuseo (Cliff's sister-in-law); Susie Cuseo; Kevin Daly (Gary Thompson's friend); Dealmira (Jonathan Ganino's grandmother); Dan & Laura Dimauro (Cuseo friends); Dot Dralus, Matt Duchon; Elaine (Wendy Colegrove's Aunt); Bruno Forte (Nancy Hedine's friend); David Fischman (Sue Granello's Friend); Donnajean Fredeen, Dave Fuller (Gail Olson's brother); 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); John (Donna's father); Jonathan (Matt Colegrove's brother); Kelti (friend of Liska Gutierrez), Samia Khoury (Will Duchon's friend); Cindy Kovacs; Monica Lynch (Bethany Dupuis' friend); Jonathan Malia; Nicole Malia; the Manuzzi Family; Mary (Kate Brigg's Mother); Betty McKeown (Donna Konkol's mother); Meghan (Mary Unger's niece); Mike (Janie Allen's son); Olivia Morrison (Donna Nickdow's niece); Pat Nugent; Ocampo family (friends of Liska Gutierrez); Nancy Olofson; Missy & Gail Olson; Donna Parratt; Regina Roberts (Kathy Maiolo's niece); Alfredo Rodriguez (Osirus Gutierrez's cousin); Noah Santiago (Shari Carrano's great-grandson); Palma Senatore (Sara Alvarez's grandmother); Carlos Serrano (Kathy Maiolo's cousin); Ed Simonovich (Nancy Hedine's friend); Bernie, Lori & Gary Sippin; John Skarupa (Barb Pellegrino's brother); Sheldon & Nancy Smith; Christine Stadler; Claire Stenzel (June & Myron Winger's granddaughter); Timara (Mary Unger's friend); Tom (Wendy Colegrove's dad); Wayne Thompson (Gary Thompson's brother); Richard Turco (Jack Fracassini's cousin); June Wilkes; Natica Williams (Will Duchon's friend); Allen & Ann Zeiner

The concerns of our world: The people of Gaza & the West Bank; Israeli hostages and their families, the people of Ukraine, Sudan, Syria 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: Lt. Col. Rachel Hoffman, Tacoma, Washington (Vaughan Askue's daughter), Zachary Gingras, 395th Combat Sustainability Support, Joel Smith, 250th Engineering Company, Chris Meneses (Loraine Zeiner's friend), Lance Corporal Taylor Smith (Cheri Irwin's Nephew)



# August

## MCC Community Calendar

*Pastor Jenn is on vacation Aug 19-25*

### **Week of Sun. Aug 3<sup>rd</sup>**

10:00 am Communion Worship  
11:30 am Trustees  
5:00 pm Senior PF

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

Diane Vacation - Office Closed  
7:30 pm Outreach

*Pastor Jenn is on vacation Aug 5-11*

### **Tue. Aug 5<sup>th</sup>**

9:30 am Mustard Seed Cleaning Event

### **Week of Sun. Aug 10<sup>th</sup>**

*Rev. Ed Rawls, Guest Preacher*  
10:00 am Worship  
5:00 pm Senior PF

### **Mon. Aug 11<sup>th</sup>**

Diane Vacation - Office Closed  
3:00 pm St George's Supper  
7:30 pm Deacons

### **Week of Sun. Aug 17<sup>th</sup>**

10:00 am Worship  
5:00 pm Senior PF

### **Mon. Aug 18<sup>th</sup>**

Diane Vacation - Office Closed

### **Wed. Aug 20<sup>th</sup>**

7:00 pm Book Club

### **Fri. Aug 22<sup>nd</sup>**

Mustard Seed Shoppe Reopens

### **Week of Sun. Aug 24<sup>th</sup>**

*Rev. Ed Rawls, Guest Preacher*  
10:00 am Worship  
5:00 pm Senior PF

### **Mon. Aug 25<sup>th</sup>**

Diane Vacation - Office Closed

### **Tue. Aug 26<sup>th</sup>**

9:30 am Mustard Seed Sort & Tag

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

12:00 pm Young at Heart

### **Week of Sun. Aug 31<sup>st</sup>**

10:00 am Worship  
5:00 pm Senior PF

### **Mon. Sept 1<sup>st</sup>**

Labor Day - Office Closed