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Office Hours:
Mon. & Wed. 9 am – 5:30 pm
Fri. 9am – 5 pm

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



THE MONROE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
STEEPLE

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

July 1, 2022



Greetings from your sabbatical minister
Grace and peace to each of you.

I am pleased to be spending the next three months with you while Rev. Gingras is away on her sabbatical. My primary responsibility is to lead weekly worship, but I am also available for emergency pastoral care. I look forward to getting to know you, both as a congregation and as individual members. Please do not hesitate to tell me your name MANY times as I get acquainted with you.

With prayers that the coming months might be restful and renewing both for Rev. Gingras and for the congregation, and trusting in the inspiration and leading of the Holy Spirit --
Rev. Peggy Allen



Diane is schedule for vacation on Mondays throughout the summer.
The church office will be open on Tuesdays & Fridays.



Thank you!
**The 50th Strawberry Festival
Numbers Are In!**



Gross Income

- Crafter Booths:** \$15,537.50
- Jams, Pies, Chocolate Berries:** \$17,320.00
- Shortcake Tickets:** 19,872.00
- Face Painting:** \$1,192.17
- Smoothies:** \$3,576.00
- After Festival Sales of "leftovers":** \$258.00
- Unallocated Income:** \$2,550.20

Total Gross Income: \$60,305.87

A HUGE "thank you" to everyone who volunteered their time and talent, and also patronized our 50th Strawberry Festival. YOU made it the success it was!





If you took home a **Strawberry Festival yard sign** this year, please keep it and display it again next June! Thank you!

TOWN OF MONROE



PROCLAMATION

MONROE STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL 50TH ANNIVERSARY

WHEREAS, the original Strawberry Festival was held in 1872 to raise money to buy the Centre Green; and

WHEREAS, fifty years ago, on Saturday, June 24, 1972 the Monroe Congregational Church began the tradition of holding an annual Strawberry Festival to support the mortgage payments for Rexford House, which is utilized extensively to this day for a multitude of community functions and events; and

WHEREAS, today the funds raised from the Strawberry Festival support not only the church but various community and outreach projects; and

WHEREAS, the popularity of the Strawberry Festival continues to grow each year, now requiring over a ton of strawberries to meet the demand for pies, jams, bread, shortcakes, chocolate covered berries and smoothies; and

WHEREAS, over one thousand visitors now attend the Strawberry Festival from all over the region, enjoying the food, musical entertainment and a large number of crafters; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate to recognize the contributions of the Monroe Congregational Church on this 50th anniversary of the annual Monroe Strawberry Festival.

NOW THEREFORE, I, KENNETH M. KELLOGG, First Selectman of the Town of Monroe, Connecticut, do commend the Monroe Congregational Church for providing this outstanding event for our community and do hereby proclaim **June 19, 2022** as **Strawberry Festival Day** in the Town of Monroe.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ken Kellogg", is written over a horizontal line.

Kenneth M. Kellogg, First Selectman

With apologies to Eugene Field, The Sugar-Plum Tree poet



The Strawberry Festival

Have you ever heard of the **Strawberry Fest**?
Tis a marvel of great renown!
It thrives by hard work of **MCC's best**
In the center of Monroe Town;
The fruit that it fetes is so wondrously sweet
(As those who have tasted it say)
That all young and old have only to eat
Of that fruit to be happy next day.

When you've got to the church, you would have a hard time
To not have a smile on your face;
The fest is so grand that no person could frown
Or wish to be another place!
For on the lawn cavorts a **big red berry**,
And delighted folks prowl all around.
And, quick on their feet, nimble of wit, each **chair** he
Amazes us so, that joys do abound.

You say but the word to any **PFer**,
They work with such good-natured zest,
That the task is complete and well done in a blur
As all who attend can attest.
Others are **assembling, hulling, and slicing**,
Baking, face-painting, greeting, and teaching,
Kneading, cashiering, sanitizing, and dicing.
Sorting, dipping, blending and preaching.

Thanks to **ALL**. To the **cleaners, DJs, musicians and builders**,
The **planners, the pickers, sign-in folks, shoppe- and book-keepers**.
As you carry away of the **JAM** that we made
As much as your backpack can hold,
Do, come, MCC, take a pat on the back,
A round of applause and a cheer
For the success that we together achieved
In our festival's 50th year.



Festival Lost & Found



If you came across a cell phone charger and are looking for the owner, please call Nancy at 203-778-8800.



If you are missing your pink elephant -good news, she has been well cared for in the office and is waiting to be reunited with her family.

Christian Education



Love working with youth, want to spread God's love to the children of our congregation in this upcoming **22/23 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!

Jr PF: See you in the fall!



This Month in Senior PF:
June 26 – Trust & Teambuilding

HELP Our Sr PF is getting ready to serve God and our neighbors on their 2022 Mission trip to Frakes, KY. The unforeseen gas crisis has put a real crunch on their budget and there a lot of need for scholarship support as well. **If you would like to help** our youth build comradery, trust, self-reliance, and self-confidence while doing God's work in a less fortunate community **please send a donation to Sr PF** (not MCC) **memo: Mission Trip**

Thank you very much for your support of our dedicated youth!

Outreach

Mustard Seed Thrift Shoppe needs your help. **During the summer months, the volunteers will be sorting, tagging and hanging new donated items on Mondays at 9AM.** Join them to restock the Shoppe. It's easy, fun and you get a great feeling in helping out the community in the long run. The Shoppe will be closed after Saturday, July 16th and will reopen on Friday, August 19th. We are looking for volunteers who would be available to work on Thursdays with shifts between 10-12:30 and 12:30-3. Please contact Susie Cuseo at thecuseos@yahoo.com or 203-268-0280 if you have any questions, comments or would like to volunteer. It's easy and rewarding. Visit a sales associate during business hours to find out how to open, operate and/or close the Shoppe or you can receive a procedure list by email. Thank you to all those who tirelessly help out behind the counter and with the donations.



Trustees

The **Monroe Summer Day Camp** is renting our MCC campus again this year. The camp will provide added income for the church during the months of June, July and August paying \$550 per week for 65 campers and \$10 more for each additional camper with a cap of 75 campers this year. **Due to camp regulations/safety protocols if you need to enter the building Monday – Friday between 7:30 AM and 5:30 PM**

we ask that you **please use the walkie-talkie to contact the camp director**, Karen, to alert her of your presence and need to enter the building.

If you would just like to go to the MCC office, please enter and go directly to the office. Thank you for your patients and cooperation -it is appreciated.



Fellowship



MCC Summertime Coffee Hour Hosts Needed



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 review the available slots on our SignUpGenius website link below and click on the date you would like to sign up for. There are slots for 2 people per Sunday (although one can do it, it's fun to serve with a friend). If you don't have access to a computer you can sign up in Wilton Hall or just call Diane in the office and she will help you get signed up - Thank you!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0c48adac2ca5fec61-mccsummertime>

MORNING CIRCLE

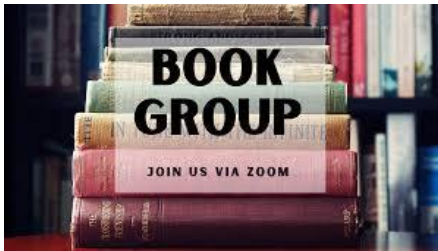
Morning Circle will not meet during the months of July and August. Many thanks to June and Myron Winger who hosted the ladies' June luncheon. During this meeting they agreed to donate \$300 to Camp Hope which is a summer camp program provided by the Center for Family Justice. In addition to that money, the ladies personally collected \$130 to help support the youth who need time away just to be kids and not worry about their problems while they're at camp. Morning Circle will meet on **Wednesday, September 14 at 11AM** in Dineson Parlor where we will have Ray Giovanni from Union Savings Bank talk about the local scams affecting our community. Please contact Jackie Bleakney with any questions or comments at 203-268-5275.



Young At Heart

Next luncheon will be on Thursday, **July 28th at 12 pm**
Housatonic House, 337 Roosevelt Drive, Seymour, CT
06483

Please RSVP to Shari Carrano at (203)400-3563



MCC Book Club is open to all church members.

For more information, please call Paula Haggstrom 203-452-0850 email: pjsh55@gmail.com We will continue meet via Zoom.

July 20th, 7 pm - The Last Mona Lisa by Jonathan Santlofer, Host: Julie McClenathan
August 17th, 7 pm - The Giver of Stars by Jojo Moyes, Host: Kristina Logan



Prayer Partners

Look for signups in August.

It's so easy to do: complete the sign-up sheet, receive a letter in the mail from Susie Cuseo with the name of who to pray for, share a conversation with them during coffee hour, send them a card or note in the mail using

the church's address as the return and then meet in May 2023 at the "Big Reveal" potluck to find out who's been praying for you. Contact Susie Cuseo with any questions or comments at thecuseos@yahoo.com or 203-268-0280.



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

George	Massar	07/01	Mike	Pellegrino	07/15
Sheldon	Smith	07/01	Kate	Parker-Burgard	07/20
Betsy	Gilberti	07/02	Paul	Haringa	07/21
Jim	Gill	07/02	Carol	Kelly	07/21
Thomas	Hyde	07/02	Erin	Brown	07/24
Amy	Matejek	07/04	Owen	Correll	07/24
Julia	Telep	07/04	Ann-Marie	Campbell	07/25
Geraldine	Esposito	07/05	Korene	Dahl	07/25
Kim	Rifflard	07/05	Campbell	Halloran	07/25
Jane	Allen	07/06	Bill	Stadler	07/26
Carrie	Friend	07/06	Luisa	Friend	07/27
James	Vance	07/08	Tom	Kelly	07/28
James	Vance	07/08	Mike	Pellegrino	07/15
Jessica	Konkol	07/11	Alexa	Sentenates	07/28
Alexander	Gutierrez	07/12	Lynda	Swift	07/28
Therese	Zalenski	07/12	Caroline	Wittenauer	07/28
Coralina	Goyette	07/14	Christine	Wittenauer	07/28
Therese	Zalenski	07/12	Kathryn	Wittenauer	07/28
Mark	Malia IV	07/14			



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

Mary Jo & Bill Brett⁽⁰¹⁾ Sheila Torres & Warren Stamp⁽⁰⁸⁾ Gary & Gail Thompson⁽¹⁰⁾
 Daniel & Eve Balestriere⁽¹⁶⁾ Matt & Wendy Colegrove⁽¹⁷⁾ Rich & Michelle Correll⁽²⁰⁾
 John & Trees Whitbeck⁽²³⁾ Anthony & Diane Prall⁽²⁸⁾ Tom & Kate Briggs⁽²⁹⁾
 and Dan & Meg Sullivan⁽³⁰⁾

MCC Community Calendar

Pastor Jenn is on sabbatical until October 1.

Welcome sabbatical supply pastor, Rev. Peggy Allen!

Week of Sun. July 3rd

Communion

10:00 am Worship

5:00 pm Senior PF

Mon. July 4th

Independence Day – Office Closed

7pm Outreach (Zoom)

Tue. July 5th

9:30 am Mustard Seed Sort and Tag

Week of Sun. July 10th

10:00 am Worship

5:00 pm Senior PF

Tue. July 12th

9:30 am Mustard Seed Sort and Tag

Wed. July 13th

7:00 pm Book Club (Zoom)

Week of Sun. July 17th

10:00 am Worship

5:00 pm Senior PF

Mon. July 18th

7:30 pm Council

Tue. July 19th

9:30 am Mustard Seed Sort and Tag

Sat. July 23rd – Sunday July 31st

Sr PF Mission Trip to Frakes, KY

Week of Sun. July 31th

10:00 am Worship

Mon. Aug 1st

7:00 pm Outreach

Tue. Aug 2nd

9:30 am Mustard Seed Sort and Tag

Wed. Aug 3rd

7:00 pm Fellowship (Zoom)

Week of Sun. Aug 7th

10:00 am Worship

5:00 pm Senior PF

Tue. Aug 2nd

9:30 am Mustard Seed Sort and Tag

Week of Sun. Aug 14th

10:00 am Worship

5:00 pm Senior PF

Mon. Aug 15th

7:30 pm Council

Tue. Aug 16th

9:30 am Mustard Seed Sort and Tag

Wed. Aug 17th

7:00 pm Book Club (Zoom)