WELCOME
Enter as a Stranger ~ Leave as a Friend
We look forward to being together again!
Watch Sunday worship
live streamed at our website
mcc.marlcongchurch.org
Sundays at 10 a.m.

Who’s Preaching?
September 6 – Holy Communion – Pastor Bob
13 – Rally Sunday – Pastor Bob
20 – Pastor Bob
27 – Val Seaver

October 4 – Confirmation Sunday – Pastor Bob
11 – Pastor Bob
18 – Pastor Bob
25 – Val Seaver

✦ If you can’t watch at 10 a.m.,
watch any previous “live
stream” at your convenience
through our website
and follow the link.
✦ Any changes will be sent via Phone Tree.

We’re Staying Connected via ZOOM
All Church meetings (CAST, Council,
Christian Education, Confirmation class,
Deacons, Staff, Sunday School, Junior and
Senior Youth Groups, Youth Enrichment)
✦ Zoom Coffee Hour
every Sunday after worship

ALL WOMEN WELCOME
Wednesday, September 9
6:30 p.m.
via ZOOM
If you don’t have the link, contact the church
office at office@marlcongchurch.org
and we’ll send it to you

Dorcas Women’s Fellowship
All Women Invited
Fri., September 11
noon to 2 p.m.
Day of Sharing
Welcome Back
2020-2021 Program Includes
Mystery trip ~ guest speakers ~ parties
flower arranging ~ missions …and more…
’est More Information?
Please call Evelyn at 860.267.4642

is the month of wonderful weather!
My 2020 bingo card had “Murder Hornets,” a “Derecho” [ground hurricane with winds over 100 mph], “Tiger King,” “Asteroid Hitting Earth” and “Cannibal Ants Escape Nuclear Bunker in Russia” all in a row! How lucky am I?!!! It would have been double bingo, but “the Apocalypse” hasn’t happened.....yet.

Christians have been waiting for the end of the world [where Jesus returns and judges the nations] for about 2000 years now. Early on, the Apostle Paul advised believers not to get married if they were single because the return of Christ was imminent. You can look it up for yourself [1 Corinthians 7:25-31]. Boy...was he off by a LOT, in more ways than one. I wonder how long our faith would have survived if everyone thought the end was near, and that everything that makes this life meaningful was a waste of time. If we’ve learned anything over these past 5 months, it’s how mainstream that sort of thinking has become these days.

Someone told me recently that “we’ll never put an end to poverty and homelessness.” Another assured me that a spike in COVID deaths is “sad but inevitable,” and still another announced that they’d “given up on politicians being able to work together to better anyone else’s life but their own.” So, in conclusion....let’s all just take off our masks, give each other a big wet kiss on the lips, and let the chips all fall where they may! C’mon Jesus! Ride that heavenly escalator down from the clouds and clean this mess up once and for all!!

There’s just one little problem. Your life may end tomorrow [or even today God forbid] but I suspect the world is gonna keep on spinning for a good while longer. And as long as it does, it’s not God’s job to clean up our mess or fix our mistakes...it’s ours.

I don’t know what’s around it, but I suspect we’re gonna be turning a corner soon. And when we do, the fruits of our spiritual labors are going to be needed more than ever.

- Evictions will leave more people homeless than ever before.
- Food banks and Soup Kitchens will be overwhelmed.
- Racial divides will be wider than ever.
- The number of sick people will continue to rise along with the debt incurred by it.
- More families than ever will be fractured and fraying at the seams.
- More churches, synagogues, temples, and mosques will be on the brink of failure.
- And I wouldn’t count on a Cosmic Street Sweeper coming along anytime soon to clean it all up.

It’s our room, and we’ve either got to be committed to cleaning it up or living in the squalor we helped to create. Take your pick. The cleaning lady is probably off for the rest of this millennium. Deal with it.

I need ALL of you to consider something more important than coming back TO church. I need you all to committing coming back to BE the church! You'll live with having to put up with digital worship for as long as we have to continue it. People need to eat...and I need feeders. People need human contact...and I need people willing to reach out and befriend. People need caregiving...and I need caregivers. People need to know that this ISN’T the end of the world. Because it’s NOT! It’s simply the beginning of a new one. Let’s get to work. Email me with what you can do. bobfaulhaber@msn.com

In the Spirit.
Bob Faulhaber Jr.
Reflections on the Quote……
A monthly column from church member Ruth Jones. Ruth is a retired elementary school teacher.

Preach the gospel every day and if necessary, use words.
Anonymous

The Bible holds many scriptures connected to preaching, preach and preacher (about 72), but I couldn’t find a reference to preaching without words. No, I didn’t read all 72, just enough to give up the quest for Biblical validation of my chosen quote.

It reinforces the concept that actions speak louder than words and that “walking the walk” goes hand in hand with “talking the talk.”

I’ve known many people who live their faith every day and preach silent sermons to those around them. Then open their hands and hearts to those in need for a multitude of reasons which make the souls of both giver and recipient sing—not notes from the lips, but the light of God in their eyes.

What kind of wordless sermon is it when a mother puts her infant on her hip, takes her toddler by the hand, and from a land far away steps out in shoes unfit for walking to find freedom and a better life for herself and her children?

Yes, it’s a yell for help, but no matter if she worships God, Allah, or Buddha, it is also a statement of trust, hope, courage, strength, and a faith that preaches a powerful sermon. Maybe they don’t follow a God, but something strikes within them that moves them toward a new life.

Those who receive immigrants and migrants have a brand of faith that runs deep within them. I’m sure they aren’t singing “Jesus Loves Me” as they welcome the homeless of the world, but they must have a sense of God’s love which lets them know they have plenty to share.

In Portland, Maine, where many of these struggling people have been received have themselves become givers, sponsors, and comforter of new arrivals.

I’ve been blessed through the years with a sense of humor that I think soothes the inner spirit. Someone once said to me, “I want what you have!” They weren’t talking about what I owned, but my attitude toward life in general. It would be nice if I could box it up and hand it out, but life by example and expressions of faith can be as strong testimony to God’s love.

I feel grateful for the example of people I’ve known who have gone through trial and tribulations hand in hand with God, not shaken in their faith. They didn’t need words to confirm the power, strength, compassion, and love of the Almighty for they felt it in the center of their being. They were the gospel for my faith.

Our heartfelt prayers go out to the following family over the passing of a loved one who entered into the more immediate presence of her Lord and Savior

† to Sharol and Marc Wilcoxen and their family over the passing of her sister, Shannon Weldon of Lake Worth, Florida, in early July.

Visitation        Meals
Correspondence    Transportation
Are you or someone you know in need?
If so, please contact either
☑ Pastor Bob Faulhaber at 860.295.0432
or
☑ Coordinator, Edi Dole at 860.267-8543
SUNDAY SCHOOL

a note from Gwen Lawson
Christian Education/JR YG Director
(860)759-3899 text is best
gwendolynn78@yahoo.com

Sunday School Update

(Subject to Change)

I am a planner, people.
I have to prepare early and
completely in order to keep my mind
which LOVES to wander down various
paths focused and on task. Too many
variables and I become forgetful,
careless and fidgety.

These past few months have been
hard on everyone, most especially the
huggers, the extroverts and the
planners.

My Rally Sunday, Welcome Back
Sunday School Update as of today,
August 23rd, may completely change by
the time you receive your Echoes.

Honestly, it may change by
tomorrow! But if I am destined to
wander various paths the next couple
of months, I am blessed to know I will
be wandering with all of you!

~ The Children’s Message will be
removed from the regular service
and have its own link on the front
page of the website. This will make
it more easily accessible at any time.

~ We will be using the “Shine Digital
Curriculum” and each week there will
be a link to the lesson on the front
page of the website. I will also
continue to email out the lesson.

~ There will be a Children’s Zoom once
a month for as long as we are still
apart.

JrYouth Group Returns!!

Any 5th-7th Grader who is interested,
please send me an email!
gwendolynn78@yahoo.com

The rules are changing as we go, so please
keep an eye on your emails for updates.

Rally Sunday, September 13, 2020
MEET OUTSIDE!!!!
wear a mask,
bring your own chair and snack
We will meet and just hang out
TOGETHER for one hour on the church
lawn.
Possibly 4:00pm-5:00pm,
but check your email for times that best
suit the most members.
Restrooms and access to the church will
NOT be available.

RALLY SUNDAY IS STILL
SCHEDULED FOR
SEPTEMBER 13, 2020
If we can’t Rally together in
person, we will Rally
together over ZOOM!!

Please register your children using our
Google Registration, and make sure that
we have an updated, active email address.

My love to you all…and to those
huggers, extroverts and planners…We’ve
made it this long…a couple more months
will be a walk in the park - various walking
paths, but a walk in the park, nonetheless!

Stay Safe & God Bless,
Miss Gwen
**CELEBRATIONS**

**to our members and friends!**

If you or an adult family member’s birthday isn’t correct or not listed, please call 860.295.9050 or email office@marlcongchurch.org

Children’s names are added when they are confirmed.

**September**
- 9/4 – Kevin McCaffrey
- 9/5 – Bob Dembek, Kris Friend, Kim Malits, Alice Rowley
- 9/7 – Greg Husta
- 9/8 – Corinne Cannon, Jean Gula, Andy McIntosh
- 9/9 – Beth Knapp, Diane Shields
- 9/11 – Jim Garrett
- 9/13 – Adam Diener, Sherry Fleming, Jonathan Trusz
- 9/15 – Sandy Bates, Rachel Schlegel
- 9/20 – Hope Caye
- 9/21 – Lisa Dann, Dalton Signor
- 9/23 – Katherine Cragnotti
- 9/24 – Rebecca Henrikson, Austin Moreland
- 9/26 – Cathy Glynn
- 9/27 – Marge Arnold, Donna Reynolds, Cory Signor
- 9/29 – John Rowley

**Count the memories, not the years.**

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**Finance Matters**

😊 **THANK YOU** for your pledge and other giving!

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**You can donate on our web site**

1. Go secure mcc.marlcongchurch.org
2. Left click mouse on DONATE, which brings you to another page.
3. Please select Sign In/Sign Up.
4. Select fund: You will need to use the drop-down box to select a fund…General Fund or Missions
5. Select Frequency:
6. Select date you would like to give.
7. Enter the $ amount you would like to give.
8. Left click on the “Add Donation” box.
9. Left click “Next” button.
10. Left click “Add New” or select credit card,
11. Left click on “Donate Now.”
12. You will receive an email with the receipt.

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**Thank you**

- **Alexa Odoy** for designing and painting the impressive and beautiful artwork in the stairwell by the church offices.
- **Larry Zarrella** for his weekly check of the church building and Dave Peeling for his routine water checks.
- **Bob Fleming and Larry Zarrella** for refurbishing the corner sign.
- **Summer on-line preachers**: Pastor Bob, Gwen Lawson, Kevin McCaffrey, Scott Reid, Val Seaver
- **Sunday on-line musicians Jeff Gorman, Carolyn Brodginski, Mark Hall, Mike Frantzen, BT Odoy, Dani Page, Steve Pozzato, Warren Thime**
- **Carolyn Aubin, Carolyn Brodginski** for garden segments in July at the on-line worship.
- **Edi Dole and Birgitta O’Brien** for garden weeding.
- **Gwen Lawson, Scott & Terri Reid, Val Seaver** for organizing the enjoyable Ice Cream Social that was held outside on the church lawn on August 22. Around 70 people, wearing face masks and 6-foot distancing, attended.

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**Marlborough Golf Classic**

**Sign-up Today!**

office@marlcongchurch.org

**Tuesday, Sept. 29, 2020**

**Marlborough Golf Classic**

**Men and Women**

$100 per person

Register as a foursome or just yourself (we’ll find a place for you).

Ride as a single or a twosome.

Let us know so we can reserve a cart

11 a.m. - Registration, Buy Raffle Tickets, Bag Lunch (by Chef Williams)
12:15 - Shotgun Start
“Teacup” Drawing winning tickets drawn during play
Dinner on your own, if you wish
The world we live in is a place of constant change. Some changes we readily embrace. Others, we would prefer did not happen. We want to share with you some of the things that we have been doing to deal with changes caused by the pandemic.

- We learned that the State of Connecticut would be distributing 50,000 infrared thermometers to support safe reopening activities amid the COVID-19 pandemic. We applied for and secured one.
- We continue to clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces.
- But we wanted to do more than that, so we researched methods for disinfecting the various “nooks and crannies” of the entire church building. After receiving quotes, our decision was to purchase an electrostatic sprayer that can be used to disinfect as many times as we deem necessary.
- Due to the prolonged facility shutdown we continue to flush the water system to keep the water free of bacteria.
- A policy statement identifying the proactive steps we are taking to address office, worship, and event related concerns has been developed. This will be posted on the church’s website, broadcast by email, and included in next month’s Hilltop Echoes.
- We recently assembled a Re-Open Church Task Force to guide us through this enormous and challenging task. You will know them as caring and committed individuals. They include David Peeling (leader), Keith Davis, Terri Reid, Larry Sherman, Larry Zarrella.
- The Task Force has created a survey to assess your concerns. Your responses will tell us what is important to you and you may have already received a phone call with the three survey questions. Your safety, and that of our staff and community is key to our decisions on when to reopen different aspects of our church. We will continue to communicate with you to share our progress.

Stay well and safe,

Jessica Trusz, Church Moderator

Keith Davis, Vice Moderator

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### Moderator's Musings

“Life isn’t about waiting for the storm to pass... It’s about learning to dance in the rain.”

Vivian Greene

I love this quote and I think sums up what I feel are beneficial and encouraging words during this virus pandemic of 2020.

I know, just like in my family, that this has been a very trying time (to say the least) regarding all that is going on in our homes, the community and in the world. Life is different and so is how we are reacting to this new and different way of life. We need to try and live our lives a day at a time and to keep growing in how we adapt in these changing new ways.

Our days are not always filled with flowers, rainbows, and warm sunshine, but our attitude and how we see the darker, gloomier days affect our mindset and the people around us.

I know that my boys look to see my reaction if everything will be okay, just like when they were little and got hurt with scrapes, bumps, and bruises. If I reacted like I was worried about their injury, my boys would then be concerned and scared. If I responded like they were okay, they then moved on to their next activity like nothing had happened.

Now is the time to look at the many blessings that we have in our lives and remember that we have gotten through tough times in the past and we will get through this time as well. I know for me I will now more fully appreciate many things, both big and small, that I had previously taken for granted.

Take care,

Jessica Trusz, Church Moderator
MISSIONS

3rd quarter
mission giving
July, August, September
Seminary Scholarship Fund

Marlborough Food Bank

If interested or for more information,
please call Food Bank at 860-295-6008
Mondays 9 to 12 or Tuesdays 10 to 5 or
call Dave Pratt at 860-975-8660

Marlborough Food Bank
located at 3 Wilhenger Drive
(first road on right, after the church)
is currently open to anyone
who needs food assistance.
No registration needed.
Open Tuesdays
10 a.m. to noon
3:30 to 5:30 p.m.

Annual Harvest Sunday
TENTATIVE DATE
September 20
If held, it may be a drive-
through/drop off event.
A Phone Tree will be sent closer to
the date with information.

SECOND BLESSINGS

THrift
SHOP

We’re getting ready to re-open
State guidelines will be followed
Program Administrator accountable
for implementing rules
Thorough sanitizing of the shop
Cleaning checklist
Face coverings for everyone
Hand sanitizers and wipes
No restroom access
Plexiglass in checkout area
Safe distancing requirements
New shopping hours and procedures
BUT, in the meantime...
We’re continuing to sell “special” items on
our
EBay Charity account
Follow the link below to go directly to our
store front to see what’s for sale
Save shipping costs and pick up at the church!